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IN TODAY'S JERUSALEM POST

● Getting close to the crunch: Israel is negotiating over elections for a Palestinian council, and when this issue is resolved, writes Alon Pinkas, the IDF's redeployment in the territories must follow. Section B.

● Crossing the ancient Spice and Perfume Route by camel is the natural way to see the desert. But, as Liat Collins discovers, it's hard to like a camel. Magazine.

● A case of edifice complex? Helen Kaye profiles the soon-to-be-opened Tel Aviv Performing Arts Center. Time Out.

● Marketing with Martha returns. Martha Meisel's consumer column returns, smelling of roses. Magazine.

Two reservists wounded by Golan mine

DAVID RUDGE

TWO IDF reserve officers were moderately wounded when they unwittingly drove into a mine field on the Golan Heights yesterday, the second serious accident in the North in 48 hours.

They were extricated by IDF sappers and taken by helicopter to Haifa's Rambam Hospital.

A colonel has been appointed to investigate the circumstances surrounding the accident.

On Wednesday, another IDF officer lost part of his foot and two soldiers were lightly hurt in a mine explosion during a training exercise. This incident is also being investigated.

Meanwhile, roadside bomb attacks inside the security zone yesterday claimed the lives of two South Lebanese Army soldiers and a Lebanese civilian; seven other SLA people were wounded.

It appears that the main target of the attacks was Col. Akel Hashem, commander of the SLA's western sector, who was very lightly wounded.

Hizbullah is believed responsible for planting the devices, following an incident earlier in the day in which a bomb was discovered near Bint J'ail in the western sector of the zone.

A second device went off in the village later in the day, killing a Lebanese civilian and wounding six SLA soldiers, including Hashem.

The wounded were taken to the nearby Bint J'ail Hospital; four of them were released after treatment.

The other bomb attack occurred in Huich village, in the eastern sector of the zone, when a device was detonated alongside a car. The two SLA soldiers in the vehicle were killed and another person, believed to have been a member of the SLA's security apparatus, was wounded.

Hashem, a Shi'ite, is one of the most senior officers in the SLA and considered to be the right-hand man of the force's commander, Gen. Antoine Lahad.

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Maj.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak at a recent press conference. The cabinet is expected to approve his appointment as chief of general staff on Sunday. (Scout 80/Gabi Kablo)

Shahak to be appointed next chief of general staff

ALON PINKAS

MAJ.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak will become the IDF's 15th chief of general staff on January 1, succeeding Lt.-Gen. Ehud Barak.

Yesterday evening, Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin summoned Shahak to his Tel Aviv office and informed him of his decision to recommend to the government that he be appointed.

The appointment requires formal approval by the cabinet, which is expected to do so at its weekly meeting on Sunday. As is usually the case, no opposition is expected in the government or in political circles.

Immediately after Shahak left Rabin's office, Rabin separately informed Maj.-Gen. Yitzhak Mordechai, Uri Saguy, and Matan Vilnay of his decision.

Rabin has not made a final decision on who will be Shahak's deputy. That decision will be made by Rabin and Shahak after Barak returns from a visit to Britain next week.

The three were all candidates, however unlikely, for the post of chief of general staff. But Shahak, currently Barak's deputy, was selected by Rabin because he had been chief negotiator of the Cairo accord with the Palestinians.

Great challenges, Page B1
Waiting period bill, Page A12

Mordechai, Saguy, and Vilnay all consider themselves candidates to succeed Shahak as deputy chief of general staff, with OC Southern Command Vilnay apparently enjoying an edge — he is supported by Shahak.

If Vilnay is appointed, Saguy, currently OC Intelligence Corps, will be asked to remain in his position, when he will be favorably considered to head a state institution.

Clinton to push Shara for progress in talks

Christopher due here Sunday

AT their meeting today, US President Bill Clinton intends to press Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Shara on the need to push Jerusalem-Damascus talks forward during Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to the Middle East, sources here indicated.

"I think the president wants to convey to the foreign minister exactly how important Christopher's upcoming visit is, and how important it is to make progress," a senior administration official said. Christopher's visit begins this weekend.

Shara and Christopher had a working lunch at the State Department to discuss both the peace process and "the bilateral issues we discuss in our dialogue with the Syrians," the official said.

In a photo session prior to their meeting, Shara reiterated what he called Damascus's commitment to peace, but insisted that it must

HILLEL KUTTLER

WASHINGTON

include a full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

"We have been saying openly and since the Madrid peace conference that Syria wants peace, and that for Syria, peace is a strategic option," Shara told reporters.

Syria, he added, "is prepared to meet the requirements of peace. Those requirements should be objective and agreed upon, and at the forefront of these requirements is full withdrawal from the Golan."

The photo session ended abruptly because of the incessant attempts of Israeli journalists to question Shara.

US peace team coordinator Dennis Ross had primed Shara to expect such an onslaught of Israeli questions, US officials said.

On Wednesday, Shara told members of the House Foreign Affairs Committee that reports that Jerusalem and Damascus had

already reached a secret understanding on full withdrawal are "not true," a congressional aide said.

Shara also told the panel, in a closed meeting, that both terrorism and drug-trafficking emanating from Syria and Syrian-controlled Lebanese territory "don't exist." Claims that Damascus sanctions such activities are lies, because the problems have been eradicated, Shara reportedly said.

Prior to his White House meeting today, Shara will hold a press conference to which Israeli print journalists, but not those from the electronic media, have been invited. A similar forum last year, also sponsored by Middle East Insight magazine, did not include Israeli journalists at the Syrians' request.

State Department spokesman Mike McCurry said the US has not set any time limit for its role as go-between in the Damascus-Jerusalem talks, stating that "clearly this dialogue could easily continue in 1995."

(Continued on Page 2)

Poll shows majority of Israelis oppose full Golan withdrawal

FIFTY-SEVEN percent of Israelis would oppose a full withdrawal from the Golan Heights in exchange for full peace with Syria, according to a Gallup poll conducted this week for The Jerusalem Post.

A total of 32.5% support such a deal, while 8.2% said they didn't know and 2.3% refused to answer.

The respondents were asked: "If a referendum were held today asking: 'Do you, in exchange for a

Jerusalem Post Staff

full peace agreement with Syria including adequate security arrangements, support or oppose a full withdrawal [from the Golan Heights] including removal of all the Golan settlements?" The poll, conducted by phone, included a larger-than-usual sample of 607 Israelis.

To another question, "To what extent do you trust the Rabin gov-

ernment to see to adequate security arrangements in the Golan" as part of such a deal, 26.4% responded they trust Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin completely to do so, and 25.7% said they do not trust him at all on this point; 17% do not trust him sufficiently and 23.9% only trust him moderately to do so. Another 4.8% said they did not know, while 2.3% refused to answer.

(Continued on Page 2)

THE SUITCASE OR THE COFFIN

May 13, 1958 — The French Government collapses as a result of the Algerian crisis. General de Gaulle is returned to power with the support of French Algerian settlers in the hope that he will put down the Muslim Nationalist rebellion led by the FLN.

September, 1959 — De Gaulle shocks French settlers by stating: "I deem it necessary that recourse to self-determination be here and now proclaimed."

October, 1959 — Following de Gaulle's call for "self-determination" for Algeria, the settlers, led by Joseph Ortiz begin to resist the French government. They rally around the slogan: "For us, henceforth, it's either the suitcase or the coffin!" Settlers begin forming paramilitary organizations.

January 24-29, 1960 — The settlers raise barricades in Algiers defying the French Government and causing a national crisis.

January 29, 1960 — De Gaulle addresses the French nation on television and pleads with the army to obey orders. "What would the French Army become but an anarchic and absurd conglomeration of military feudalisms," he asks, "if it should happen that certain elements made their loyalty conditional?" The French army restores order in Algiers.

January 8, 1961 — French voters approve de Gaulle's Algeria policy in national referendum.

April 22-25, 1961 — French generals organize a putsch in Algeria. The coup d'état fails and many of the army's highest ranking officers are arrested.

March 19, 1962 — A cease-fire is negotiated between the French government and the Algerian FLN.

March 26, 1962 — The French army opens fire on the settlers in Algiers. Many civilians are killed.

January - August 1962 — French settlers evacuate Algeria. The FLN begins its campaign to rid the country of its political opponents.

July 3, 1962 — Algeria becomes an independent state.

(Since 1962 Algeria has lived under 32 years of dictatorship. The brutal murder of foreign residents remains a common occurrence and a state of martial law has been imposed to prevent a seizure of power by Moslem fundamentalists.)

Former Naval Person
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USA

Arab flees traffic mishap, shot as alleged terrorist

AN Arab involved in a minor traffic accident in Jerusalem yesterday was shot and wounded by another of those involved who thought the man was a terrorist.

Jabar Nabil, 28, of Abu Ghosh, was the cause of a three-car collision at the French Hill intersection, in which two people were lightly injured. Immediately after the crash, Nabil got out of his car and ran from the scene.

The other drivers and several soldiers who saw the accident (Continued on Page 2)



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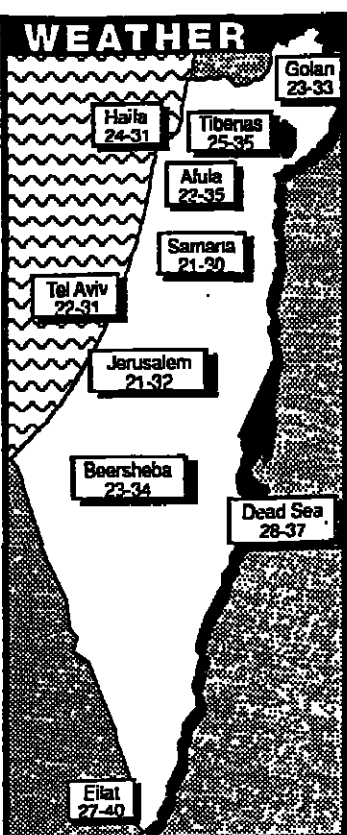
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Munich	10	15	cloudy
Vienna	10	15	cloudy
Zurich	10	15	cloudy
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Helsinki	10	15	cloudy
Tokyo	10	15	cloudy
Osaka	10	15	cloudy
Seoul	10	15	cloudy
Beijing	10	15	cloudy
Shanghai	10	15	cloudy
Hong Kong	10	15	cloudy
Singapore	10	15	cloudy
Bangkok	10	15	cloudy
Manila	10	15	cloudy
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Colombo	10	15	cloudy
Delhi	10	15	cloudy
Mumbai	10	15	cloudy
Calcutta	10	15	cloudy
Rangoon	10	15	cloudy
Yokohama	10	15	cloudy
Kobe	10	15	cloudy
Nagasaki	10	15	cloudy
Fukuoka	10	15	cloudy
Sapporo	10	15	cloudy
Utsunomiya	10	15	cloudy
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Utsunomiya	10	15	cloudy
Maebashi	10	15	cloudy
Utsunomiya	10	15	cloudy
Maebashi	10	15	cloudy

Winning numbers and cards

In last night's Payis Hazak drawing, the holder of ticket number 460627 won NIS 1,000,000.

The holder of ticket number 225140 won a Honda sports car. Tickets numbered 008199, 179970, 623687, 701925, 499073, 113825, 470155, 313672, 422297, 425341, 776255, 785534, 092225, 266602, 244409, 104138, 884616, 045461, 256598, 189262, 702450, 454105, 259406, 811303, 033129 and 340111 won NIS 5,000. Those tickets ending in 92148, 00943, 82777, 85915, 23280, 14669, 92921, 49542, 55769, 83334, 98860, 70465, 49217, 43806, 35056, 04455, 15811, 90117 and 87834 won NIS 1,000. Tickets ending in 207, 463, 036, and 577 won NIS 100. Tickets ending in 45, 38, 80 and 74 won NIS 20. Tickets ending in 62, 61, 66, 10, 60, 54 and 08 won NIS 10. Tickets ending in 3 won NIS 7.

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the seven of spades, seven of hearts, seven of diamonds, and jack of clubs.

SOCIAL & PERSONAL

The Rt. Hon. David Hunt, chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, yesterday visited the Weizmann Institute of Science, where he was received by Hanan Bar-On, senior adviser to the president, toured research facilities, and met with President Prof. Haim Harari.

Elba remanded, indicted on 7 counts

HERB KEINON and Itim

RABBI Ido Elba, touted for weeks as the "spiritual leader" of an alleged Jewish terror cell, was indicted on seven counts in Jerusalem District Court yesterday, including incitement to racism, illegal possession and manufacturing of weapons, seeking information about a restricted area, and obstruction of justice.

Elba, who has been held in custody for more than a month, was remanded until Sunday, when a hearing is scheduled to determine whether he should be held until the end of the legal proceedings.

After the hearing, which lasted about three minutes, Elba's lawyer Nafali Wertzberger said he was pleasantly surprised Elba was not charged with more serious offenses, such as sedition and membership in a terror organization. He said the state has not prosecuted for some of the crimes, such as information about restricted areas, for 20 years.

Elba, the head of a kollel in the Machpela Cave, was brought into the crowded courtroom by six police from a special riot patrol unit. When he walked in, a group of about 10 friends and relatives began singing a verse from Psalm 24, "Raise your heads, Oh gates, raise your heads, your ancient doors, that the glorious King may come in."

According to the indictment, Elba

circulated a 14-page halachic pamphlet entitled "Clarification of the halachot pertaining to the murder of Gentiles." According to Kiryat Arba sources, this pamphlet was circulated after Baruch Goldstein killed 29 Arabs in the Machpela Cave.

In a summary on the back page headlined "For study but not for practice," Elba allegedly wrote that the biblical injunction "Thou shalt not kill" "is not applicable to a Jew who kills a gentile," and that this is not forbidden according to the Torah.

Elba also wrote that there is a mitzva to kill "gentiles who are devoted to religions that deny the fundamentals of Jewish faith and the eternity of the Torah and who, like missionaries and Moslems who believe in Jihad, believe that they are commanded to persuade others to join their religion."

This "mitzva," Elba wrote, is applicable when Jews have it in their power to do this, and when they do not have to fear from the rest of the world.

In addition to incitement to racism, Elba was also charged with paying another suspect, Michael Mor-Yosef, NIS 4,000 for two silencers. He also

allegedly pressed a Hebron resident picked up in the case, Elyashiv Keller, to ask Lt. Oren Edri to give him explosives Edri had in his house.

The charge sheet said Edri refused to do this, but allegedly drew a sketch of two IDF bases in the south, pointing out their munitions dumps. Edri is in military custody.

Regarding obstruction of justice, Elba allegedly tried to convince a number of suspects - when they were held together over the last month - to alter testimony they gave their interrogators.

In a related development, Yisrael Ben-Aharon, arrested early Monday morning on suspicion of obstructing justice, was released yesterday. Police sources said no charges against him will be filed.

Meanwhile, police yesterday arrested Hebron resident Anat Cohen, touching off an angry response by Hebron settlers. A number of settlers and their supporters, including 30 members of the Women in Green, demonstrated against the arrest in front of the Russian Compound lock-up in Jerusalem last night.

Judea Police Commander Moshe Mizrahi said Cohen was arrested for insulting and kicking an officer in front of the Machpela Cave on Yom Kippur, and for trying to prevent arrests in Hebron earlier in the year.

Ariel mayor protests Biran's demand for speedier prosecution of settlers

HERB KEINON

ARIEL Mayor MK Ron Nahman said yesterday he is cutting off ties with OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Ilan Biran except with regard to security matters, because Biran asked the police and Attorney-General's Office to speed up 88 criminal cases pending against settlers.

According to Nahman, this is blatant interference in civil matters by a man in uniform.

But other senior army sources also said that police and civilian courts are treating complaints filed by the army against settlers slowly and inefficiently, which is why the IDF is compelled to resort to such measures as administrative restrictions on movement. On Wednesday, Biran signed orders restricting the movement of 18 Israelis in Hebron.

"There are 88 complaints which have not been acted on yet. For example, there are 18 files on Kach activist Baruch Marzel. They have not been dealt with, and we are talking about people with reputed violent activities in the past. Administrative restriction of movement decrees are our only efficient course of action until the police and the courts intervene," said a Central Command source.

Nahman, meanwhile, said that when Biran signed those orders, "he was acting within his authority. He did not infringe this, he just signed the papers. It was a technical matter."

But, Nahman said, when Biran asked the various civil authorities to

speed up criminal investigations against settlers, he was interfering in a civil matter. "In this case he not acting as a functionary, but as someone who simply wants to cover his rear," Nahman said.

According to Nahman, Biran wants to be in a position where, in case there is violence on the part of settlers, he can evade responsibility by saying he had warned more should be done against Jewish law-breakers.

"But that's not his job," Nahman said. "His job is to prepare for the next war, to preserve order, to make sure there are no petrol bombs. It is not his job to become involved in

Machpela Cave opens October 31

THE Machpela Cave will officially reopen for prayer on October 31, the chief rabbis were told yesterday by the prime minister's adviser on religious affairs, Yisrael Lipel.

However, it has apparently not yet been decided how to implement the separation between Moslem and Jewish worshippers - whether to assign them separate prayer halls.

Researchers at the Tzomet Institute, which specializes in finding halachically acceptable ways to deal with modern technology, are feverishly searching to solve the problem posed by the new electronic gates that have been installed at the cave. Opening and closing of these gates in the normal fashion would constitute a violation of Shabbat (Itim)

CORRECTION

THE TV program listing for Channel 1, Sunday at 23:35 in Time Out is incorrect. The scheduled program in that time slot is Milena, a four-part series about Franz Kafka's lover before World War II.

3-car pile-up kills 1

One driver was killed and two drivers lightly injured in a three-car pile-up near Yavne.

The three cars were traveling one after the other, when the driver of the middle car hit the first car in line, and the third car rammed hard into the two others. The driver of the first car was killed. (Itim)

Saudis reportedly ready to fund Palestinian projects in Jerusalem

BILL HUTMAN

FOLLOWING months of talks, Saudi Arabia has promised PLO leader in Jerusalem Faisal Husseini funding for Palestinian projects there, according to Palestinian sources.

The money is also slated to help the Palestinian Authority cover the cost of running the Waqf in the administered territories, recently taken over by the Palestinians from Jordan. The development comes as Palestinian institutions in the city face serious financial problems.

The Jerusalem Post has learned that workers at several of the institutions - including the Arab Studies Society which Husseini heads - are threatening labor action because they have not received salaries for several months.

Yesterday, Husseini told the Post that September salaries were paid and arrangements being made to cover unpaid back salaries.

Husseini traveled to Saudi Arabia and met leaders there last week, following a series of similar visits in recent months in which Husseini appealed to the Saudis for financial assistance.

Husseini gave the Saudis a detailed list of Palestinian needs in Jerusalem during past visits, and the Saudis showed willingness to provide help. But in the recent visit, the Saudi regime gave concrete promises.

According to one report, they agreed to invest as much as \$40 million in various Palestinian projects in Jerusalem.

Ovadia Yosef will keep Shas out of coalition if High Court nixes deal

SARAH HONIG

SHOULD the High Court of Justice nix the deal between Labor and Shas, Rabbi Ovadia Yosef will keep Shas out of the coalition, a high-ranking Shas source told The Jerusalem Post last night.

The source added that his party had insisted that Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin announce now that he will impose party discipline in all votes on any bills Shas demands in the wake of the controversial deal.

Under the agreement, Labor commits itself to pursuing legislation to circumvent any High Court decision that Shas believes violates the religious status quo. This clause has generated so much resistance in both Labor and Meretz that many in both Shas and Labor believe the deal will never be implemented, even if the court does not reject it.

Five petitions are now pending in the court against the deal; the fifth was filed yesterday by Amata - Citizens for Good Government. This has prompted Rabin to delay deliberation on the agreement in the party's central committee.

Rabin wanted the committee to ratify the deal quickly, and for the Knesset to ratify the appointment of two Shas ministers on Monday, to seal Shas's re-entry into the coalition.

But Environment Minister Yossi Sarid warned Rabin not to dare to pursue this course before the court rules. If he did, Meretz would vote against the ministerial appointments and bar Shas's return to the coalition.

Sarid said that his party is in no hurry to see Shas back in the coalition, and that it can wait for months if that is how long it takes the High Court to rule on the petitions.

Many opponents of the deal, including Justice Minister David Liba'i

and Police Minister Moshe Shaleh are sure the court will strike it down. Labor Secretary-General Nissim Zivili, who supports the deal, said that "the court might express reservations about the agreement, which we will take into consideration."

The legal situation is so complicated that it is not clear whose point of view the attorney-general should represent, that of the justice minister or the prime minister. It is also possible that Liba'i himself will appear in court to explain his opposition to the deal, a move which would embarrass the government.

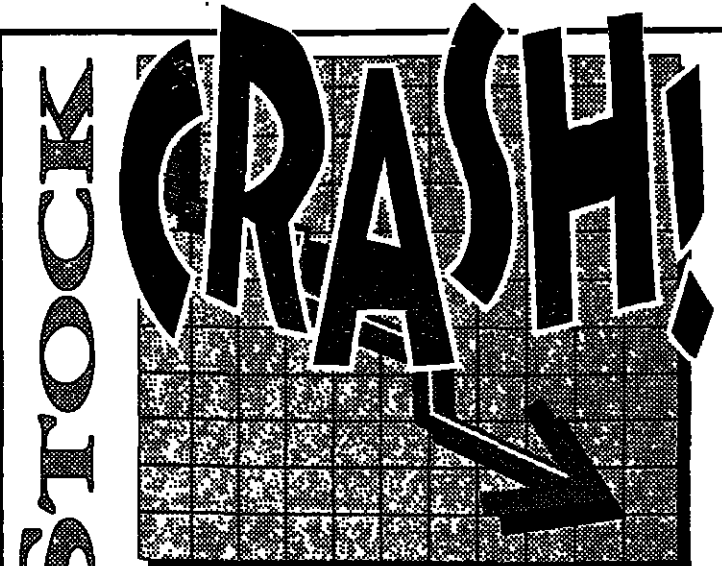
Evelyn Gordon adds:

A spokeswoman for Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair said he is still studying the petitions, and has not yet decided on his position.

Ben-Yair is not obligated to support Rabin, based on a precedent set by his predecessor, Yosef Harish, and upheld by the High Court. Harish chose to side with the petitioners, against Rabin, over the question of whether Aryeh Dori and Raphael Eitan could continue to serve as minister and deputy minister despite the indictments against them.

The Movement for Quality Government in Israel, one of the petitioners, yesterday sent a letter to State Attorney Dorit Beinisch asking her to refuse to represent Rabin in the case. However, Ben-Yair will be the ultimate arbiter of his office's position.

All of the petitions except one will be heard on Tuesday. One petition - by a group calling itself Disappointed Shas Voters - has been scheduled for a ruling on Sunday, without there having even been a hearing. Presumably, the court did not find this petition serious enough for its consideration.



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Sharon demands Syria leave Lebanon in any peace accord

DAVID RUDGE

ISRAEL should insist on a complete withdrawal of Syrian troops from Lebanon as part of any peace deal, MK Ariel Sharon (Likud) declared yesterday, following a visit to the security zone.

He maintained that it would be a grave mistake for the IDF to pull out of the zone as part of an agreement with Syria.

"The presence of Syria in Lebanon alters our strategic situation along the northern border. One of the conditions Israel has to insist on, in the framework of an agreement, is for

Syria to pull out of Lebanon completely," Sharon said.

Sharon was accompanied on his visit by OC Northern Command Maj.-Gen. Yitzhak Mordechai. During the tour, he met with South Lebanese Army commander Gen. Antoine Lahad.

He denounced the understandings that were reached between Israel, Syria, and Hizbullah at the end of last summer's Operation Accountability, which were aimed at stopping Katyusha rocket attacks on the Galilee.

Hamas rejects participation in Palestinian elections

Jerusalem Post Staff and news agencies

HAMAS leaders in Jordan yesterday absolutely rejected participating in Palestinian elections, demanding the impossible condition of the participation of all Palestinians living abroad.

"We only support a council of all the Palestinian people inside and outside," Ibrahim Ghosbeh, the Hamas spokesman in Jordan, told Reuters in Amman.

The rejection made Israel's conditions for the participation of opposition parties academic, but they caused an uproar in this week's election talks in Cairo.

Israel said no political faction could compete if it demanded that the Israel-PLO agreement be suspended as a condition for participating in the elected council.

WEAR A GREEN RIBBON AS A CONTINUOUS DEMONSTRATION IN SUPPORT OF THE JEWISH RESIDENTS OF THE GOLAN, YESHA, CHEVRON AND YERUSHALAIM HASHLEMA

CLINTON

(Continued from Page One) Meanwhile, Jordan yesterday said it expects Syria and Israel to produce a negotiating agenda by November, Reuters reported from Amman.

"Matters are developing on the Syrian-Israeli track," Prime Minister Abdul-Salam Majali told a visiting British defense academy delegation. "We believe they will have their own agenda during this month or next month." He did not elaborate.

David Rudge adds: A referendum on the fate of the Golan Heights and a potential peace treaty with Syria could be held within the next few months.

Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin said yesterday.

Beilin, on a visit to Upper Nazareth, said he hopes the issue will be put before the public "within a matter of months and no more than that."

At that point, "each and every one of us will have to decide whether he is prepared to take a chance on peace with Syria, for a territorial price which is not easy; or if he is prepared to take a greater chance and leave the situation as it is now, without peace with Syria, which is the only country in the immediate area which poses a 'strategic threat' to Israel," he said.

ARAB

(Continued from Page One) thought this proved he had caused it deliberately, and began searching for him.

One of the drivers, Moshe Merhav, of Eli, spotted Nabil near the Hyatt Regency Hotel and shouted for him to halt. When Nabil continued running, Merhav opened fire, lightly wounding him in the legs. Nabil was taken to Shaare Zedek Hospital.

Merhav was held for questioning and his gun was confiscated. According to the police, Nabil has a criminal record and was driving without a license or insurance, which is why he fled the scene of the accident. (Itim)

POLL

split among men was 54.3% to 36.8%.

Asked "What, in your opinion, is the chance the Syrians will launch a war against Israel in the future, even if there is a peace agreement with Israel?" the large majority indicated at least some fear of a Syrian attack even after a treaty is signed. A total of 19.4% said there was a great chance, 25% some chance, and 31.3% a slight chance of this occurring. Only 15.8% said there was no chance of such a war; 6.9% did not know, and 1.5% refused to answer.

The poll revealed that among the respondents the Labor-Meretz-Shas vote has gone down from 41.8% to 34.1%. The number undecided is at 21.4%. This means that only a third of voters support the Jewish parties now in power.

When those polled were asked which party they would vote for in the next election, Labor received 27.5%, and the Likud 20.1%, while Meretz got 5.8%, Tsomet 7.2%, Shas 8%, the NRP 1.6%, Agudat Israel, Degel Hatorah and other Israeli parties 1.2%, Tehiga 2%, 5.6% said they would not

vote, and 7.6% refused to reply.

Asked how they voted last time, 33.1% said they voted for Labor, 18.3% Likud, 7.7% Meretz, 6.9% Tsomet, 1% Shas, 2% NRP, 1.5% haredi parties, 8% Tehiya, 12.9% said they did not vote, 12.5% refused to say, and 2.1% said they did not know.

Opposition to withdrawal from the Golan appeared strongest among the younger members of the population, and support highest among older Israelis. A breakdown of those who said they "opposed" a withdrawal even with adequate security arrangements showed that 69.4% of those aged 18-24 and 62.6% of those 25-34 opposed such a deal.

Of those who said they favored full withdrawal from the Golan, only 24.1% of those aged 18-24 supported the idea, while 39.8% of those 45 and older and 37.5% of those 55 and older backed such a plan.

More women than men were opposed to withdrawal, with 59.7% opposed and 28.1% in favor. The

'Selective aliya' from the West

BATSHEVA TSUR

Jews from countries of distress — especially if they are fleeing — are brought here without any screening, whereas those from the West may not receive aid from the Jewish Agency unless they meet certain criteria, a senior agency official admitted yesterday.

Aliya Department head Arnon Mautner was replying to an immigrant from Uruguay, who claims there is already "selective aliya" — as Labor Minister Ora Namir had suggested with regard to the CIS — but only for immigrants from the West.

According to Moshe Goldstein, who came here in 1983, prospective immigrants from his country were interviewed by a psychologist. He said Israel Radio yesterday that he personally knew of two cases where people were turned down. The two eventually made aliya without Jewish Agency aid, arriving here as tourists, then changing their status.

Goldstein said that it was standard practice in Uruguay for every prospective immigrant to undergo psychological screening. He had personally done so and saw no affront in it, he said, but could not understand why this is not required in other countries.

"There is no selection with regard to westerners wanting to come here, but in certain cases they may not receive Jewish Agency help," Mautner said. "For example, if an elderly couple from the West decides they want to come here, we explain to them the difficulties in obtaining health care. They could have come 40 years earlier, and then we would gladly have helped them. We tell them the decision is theirs and if they want to come, of course they can, at their own expense."

He said that the only exceptions were people who endangered public safety because they constituted security risks, had infectious or mental diseases, or criminal records.

"The screening in the West is done to ensure that the immigrant will fit in the program he wants to attend, at a university or on a kibbutz, for example," Mautner said. "When Jews are fleeing, we can't do this and simply take everyone. Now that the situation is more stable in the CIS, we also have emigrants who explain the reality to prospective immigrants with problems."

He said that the prospective immigrant then had the possibility of deciding for himself.

"The right to make aliya under the Law of Return is universal for Jews. We put the cards on the table with people who aren't likely to make it," Mautner said.

Beilin urges amending Law of Return

DAVID RUDGE

DEPUTY Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin yesterday called for the Law of Return to be amended to meet changing circumstances in the world, as well as in Israel itself.

"The problem is that there are those who are exploiting the Law, because it is open to a non-Jew who might be the spouse of the son, or grandson of a Jew and so on, which allows them to come to Israel and claim all the rights to which a Jew is entitled," said Beilin.

"The time therefore has come, in my opinion, to make changes (in the Law of Return) because Israel is a very attractive country. It's not surprising that there are more and more elements in the world calling themselves Jews," he said.

Beilin, who spoke during a visit to Upper Nazareth yesterday, said there were also cases of people from tribes or communities who came here on visits and then converted.

In such circumstances, under the existing law, the spouses, children and grandchildren automatically became Jews, he said.

Two Jewish children, Belgian boy receive organs from Tira girl

JUDY SIEGEL

A MOSLEM couple in Tira, whose four-year-old daughter suffered brain death when she was hit by a stray bullet while playing in their yard last Friday, have donated her kidneys to two local Jewish children and her liver to a four-year-old boy in Belgium.

The recipients of the kidneys, who underwent transplant surgery at Beilinson Hospital in Petah Tikva on Sunday, are recovering nicely, doctors said.

Awani and Siham Masarwa, who have four other children aged 18 years to six months, were at home when their daughter Ranin was hit. "I drove her to Meir Hospital, but they don't have a neurosurgery department, so she was rushed to Beilinson," the girl's father said. "They said she had been hit by a bullet and that there was no hope and that she was brain dead. I myself suggested that they use her organs for transplant."

Awani, who insulates roofs for a living, said he didn't care who the recipients were. "We are all human beings," he asserted. "It's a good deed in any religion."

One kidney was transplanted into a four-year-old girl, and the other into a 10-year-old boy — both of whom suffered from renal insufficiency and who would otherwise have died.

The liver was not suited to anyone needing a transplant here, so it was flown to the European Transplant Center; it was then successfully transplanted into a four-year-old Belgian boy suffering from a terminal illness. The heart was not suited for a child here, either, but the valves were removed and preserved for a future transplant at Beilinson.

Hospital sources said police are investigating the girl's tragic death, but so far there are no suspects.

Awani said he wanted to meet the two Israeli recipients of the kidneys, but that their parents were reluctant to let him do so.

"I left them bouquets of flowers and left a note wishing them well," he said, "but I would still like to meet them."

He added that he wanted the country to know the story so that anyone who is in a position to donate organs would remember his daughter and save a life.

Overcrowding at Abu Kabir will be eased, Shahal pledges

RAINE MARCUS

WOMEN and juveniles who should be in Prisons Service jails, but are now being held in the Abu Kabir lock-up, will be transferred to prisons within the next few days to ease overcrowding, Police Minister Moshe Shahal promised yesterday.

Shahal said it hurt him to see conditions at the lock-up, which is meant to house mainly those awaiting trial. Yesterday morning, there were 453 inmates — 29 young offenders, 36 women, and 388 men. Some 286 of them are awaiting trial or have been sentenced and should be transferred to a prison.

"There will be no more than 150 men at Abu Kabir, who should be in Prisons Service jails," Shahal said.

Shahal's visit was his first to the lock-up since recent incidents in which a 16-year-old was sexually assaulted and another youth had boiling water poured over him by another prisoner.

About a month ago, the International Defense for Children organization issued a damning report on conditions there.

Shahal insisted crucial changes to improve conditions will be implemented shortly. He is currently examining the possibility of building a separate lock-up for minors.

"If this is impossible, we will ensure that there is a complete separation between young offenders and adult inmates," he said.

Tel Aviv police chief Cmdr. Gabi Last said recently that "improving Abu Kabir is our priority." He has appointed 30 additional policemen, including officers, to deal with problems at the lock-up. A psychologist and a social worker will also be employed in the youth wing.

NIS 500,000 has been allocated to renovate and modernize Abu Kabir, which has no heat or air conditioning. Meanwhile, women prisoners and young offenders complained bitterly about conditions and the way guards treat them.

Sandy Chon has been held for five days on suspicion of fraud. Her request to

Shahal was simple — she needs a toothbrush and had not been given one despite repeated requests.

In another cell, a woman crouched on the floor, and asked for an asthma inhaler.

Two women, sentenced for drug offenses and locked in their cells 23 hours a day, had plenty of complaints. "The food is terrible — animals get better treatment. The guards' attitude is degrading. We are only allowed one telephone call a week. We should be in Neveh Tirza [a women's prison], not in this pig sty," one said.

Their cell partner is a pyromaniac who has been certified psychologically unstable.

Cells housing juveniles were filthier than the women's wing. Two unkempt 16-year-olds were on their beds in a dirt-encrusted cell, whose walls were adorned with graffiti. An open shower and toilet were in one corner of the room.

The two said it was their first time in the lock-up.

"We have nothing to do all day," one said.

Reporters were not taken around the male wing, but shouts and screams from there echoed throughout the lock-up.

The new commander, Chief Superintendent Rafi Jedda, said he wants to train police guards there.

"If they feel good about their work, it will reflect on the inmates," he said. Shahal's requests to build new prisons and lock-ups is falling on the deaf ears of local council heads and mayors, who refuse to allow jails to be constructed in their jurisdiction.

But Zalmon Prison in the North, which will house 700 convicts and is currently under construction, will solve some overcrowding problems. It will be a model prison with modern facilities and conveniences.

"There is no reason to treat inmates like animals," Shahal said.

Mission to Haiti marks a change

News agencies

"THIS marks a dramatic change that is going on in this area, making Israel a normal member of the international community," said Police Minister Moshe Shahal as he saw Israel's contingent to the international force in Haiti off at Ben-Gurion Airport yesterday morning.

Although the team included only 30 police officers, whose mission is limited to monitoring human rights, Shahal said the development signaled a new phase spurred by Israel's peace talks with its Arab neighbors.

"I see the very sending of the delegation as significant because it is the first time Israel is participating in an international force as part of a task to bring democracy to another part of the world," he said.

The decision to send the team to Haiti was challenged in the High Court of Justice by former Kach activist Noam Federman, but the court rejected the petition.

Previous Israeli participation in international missions was severely limited by the deep divisions of the Middle East conflict and the Cold War.

"Former US secretary of state Henry Kissinger once quipped: 'Israel has no foreign policy, just an internal policy,'" said Foreign Ministry spokesman Yigal Palmor.

"That judgment has been valid for a long time. Now our foreign policy is really foreign and is directed towards the world, international institutions, and the region around us."

In July, an Israeli medical team flew to Zaire to treat Rwandan



Tal Sabag, 7, hugs her father Charlie, a member of the police mission to Haiti, before his departure yesterday.

Shahal dismisses fraud squad rumors of shake-up

RAINE MARCUS and BILL HUTMAN

LEAKS from top police officers alleging that Police Minister Moshe Shahal plans to replace senior fraud squad members with officers close to him are "tendentious" and "unfounded," Shahal said yesterday.

"I only heard about the intended replacements yesterday afternoon and it's clear to me that some officers have tendentious motives in leaking these unfounded and false rumors to the press," said Shahal.

Senior sources said that the intended replacement of Chief Superintendent Avri Gelber, Michael Moschovitz and Asher Shamir — all described as top investigators — were planned by Shahal in order to monitor particularly sensitive investigations.

"Shahal want to put officers close to him in the squad to supervise investigations involving politicians and businessmen," said a police officer. Army Radio described the atmosphere at National Fraud Squad headquarters in Jaffa as "very ugly" yesterday.

Dutch queen to visit

BATSHEVA TSUR

HOLLAND'S Queen Beatrix and her husband Prince Claus are to pay a state visit from March 27-March 29. They will be the guests of President Ezer Weizman and his wife Rema.

This is the first time a ruling Dutch monarch will visit, and the trip will strengthen the strong ties between the two peoples and their countries, a presidential spokesman said.

Another royal visitor will be Britain's Prince Philip, who will come here privately at the end of this month at the invitation of Yad Vashem. He will attend a ceremony during which his late mother Princess Alice of Greece will be accorded the title of Righteous Gentile for saving a Greek Jewish family during World War II. The prince will also call on Weizman.

On Sunday, the president of Congo is due to arrive.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Cultural exchange with Vatican signed

Israel has signed its first cultural exchange agreement with the Vatican and renewed its existing agreement with Italy, Uri Bar-Ner, Foreign Ministry deputy director-general for cultural and scientific affairs, said yesterday in Rome.

Plans include exchanges with the Pontifical Gregorian University, including lectures on the Holocaust and antisemitism. The university will organize a symposium on relations between Israel and the Catholic Church and another on the historical and theological reasons for antisemitism. It also offered to host a meeting on education with representatives of an Israeli university and a Catholic university outside Italy.

Lisa Palmieri-Billig

Safed mayor's new car goes up in flames

The new Volvo of Safed Mayor Moshe Hania, only two months old, went up in flames early yesterday morning, taking with it the car parked next to it.

Because of a labor dispute, the Fire Department, which put out the blaze, refused to investigate the possibility of arson, and police are doing so instead.

Hania denied his car was torched, insisting the blaze was caused by a mechanical defect.

Hania's new car was the subject of a bitter battle, with opponents of the purchase arguing that a city so deeply in debt that it had difficulty paying its workers could not afford to buy the mayor a new car.

Itim

Green Fair organizer blasts Sarid, ministry

LIAT COLLINS

THE Environment Ministry is more interested in public relations than tackling environmental problems, according to Lior Caspi, co-director of Sigma-Team, the company organizing next week's second Green: Environment and Quality of Life Fair.

He also charged that the lack of a clear environmental policy and legal enforcement has left scores of companies dealing with waste water purification and recycling without work.

Caspi blasted Environment Minister Yossi Sarid and called the ministry "negligent."

"Several companies bought expensive equipment and know-how following the announcement of Envi-

ronment Year [last year] only to find that at the end of the year there is still a long road until we reach a stage of law enforcement for companies polluting their surroundings," Caspi said.

Caspi charged the ministry with dealing "mainly with self promotion without dealing with the real issues."

As an example, he said that during Environment Year, the ministry, which sponsored the trade fair, sent "a couple of pretty girls to hand out stickers" at its stand. This year it is not participating at all, although it is still listed as a sponsor.

and, as such, we are invited to join international peacekeeping missions. "We are happy to oblige, just as we accept here UN peacekeeping forces around our borders."

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The wooing of Iraq

THE mood of conciliation is so pervasive in the Middle East that leading European officials are asking a logical question: if Assad, why not Saddam?

Indeed, it is difficult to find differences between the two. True, the Iraqi dictator irritated the United States by invading Kuwait and threatening Saudi Arabia, both friends and customers of Washington and prime purveyors of oil to the West. But the basic reason for politically supporting Iraq - its natural position as a counterweight to fanatic, revolution-exporting Iran - is more valid now than ever. Economically, too, there are good reasons for the market-hungry West to renew relations with Saddam Hussein, allow him to sell oil, and restore him to a position of preferred customer for the West's chemical, nuclear and arms industries.

True, Saddam is not a particularly savory fellow. In the past he gassed to death 5,000 Kurds, and killed and transferred hundreds of thousands of Kurds and Shi'ites. At present, too, he seems to be treating his people rather harshly. As Iraq expert Maurice Mylroie of the Foreign Policy Research Institute in Philadelphia wrote earlier this week in the *New York Times*, Saddam has had to enforce traditional Islamic punishment to keep his restive people under control.

Iraqis caught dealing illegally in foreign currency or forging government documents are punished by having their hands amputated. Army deserters, or those sheltering them, lose an ear and are branded by an X tattooed between their eyes. The other ear is amputated after a second offense, and a third offense carries the death penalty.

But the West can take such draconian laws in its stride. One of its most cherished friends, Saudi Arabia, practices the amputation of heads, let alone limbs, as a matter of routine. Nor can Iraqi slaughters and brutalities match the enormities of Syria's Hafez Assad, now so ardently wooed by every capital from Washington to Pyongyang.

In fact, the West is already wooing Saddam with almost as much ardor. Kenneth Timmerman, one of the most prominent experts on the Middle East, has provided a mind-boggling list of French, German and Italian firms which are even now, while the international sanctions are still in force, negotiating immense military and industrial projects with Iraq. Western governments, as well as Russia, China and Turkey are persistently lobbying to lift the sanctions and effect Iraq's return to the comity of nations.

In a recent *Wall Street Journal* article, Timmerman states that "France intends to support a plan...that will lead to a gradual lifting of the United Nations trade embargo on Iraq and the resumption of Iraqi oil sales, perhaps within six months. Most UN diplomats acknowledge that the embargo will be history in less than a year. Once

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the sanctions are lifted, Iraq will return as a major oil exporter, giving Saddam the resources he needs to accomplish his top strategic objective: the rebuilding of his military machine... Let there be no mistake: Saddam's radical Ba'ath Party is not preparing to abandon its dream of turning Iraq into the Prussia of the Middle East."

Most officials in the West seem oblivious to such warnings. As Timmerman put it, "The international 'death lobby' that helped strengthen Iraq's Saddam Hussein is making all the right moves to build him up again." In fact, some Western officials are publicly regretting that the West ever joined the coalition against Saddam in the Gulf War.

Clearly, Saddam's plan to develop nuclear and chemical arms is still his top priority. In June 1993, a shipment of chemicals needed in uranium enrichment was intercepted en route to Akaba, and in December a shipment of solid rocket fuel was seized. Many of the companies negotiating with Saddam were instrumental in developing his non-conventional war machine before the Desert Storm campaign.

Ironically, if the West lifts the sanctions now, it will be saving Saddam's regime, not unlike the way Israel saved Yasser Arafat's by negotiating with him. The sanctions have obviously hurt Saddam. While the army is still kept well-fed, the economy is a shambles. Inflation is running at an incredible rate of 24,000 percent per year. Corruption is rampant. The number of poor and indigent is rapidly multiplying. The meager rations at subsidized prices have been drastically cut. Dissatisfaction is being voiced openly.

In Mosul there were street demonstrations last month. And despite the regime's unspeakable punishments, there are tens of thousands of deserters. The Kurdish areas have become a refuge for deserting soldiers and a headquarters for internal resistance against the regime.

If the West were truly devoted to human rights, and had it learned anything from this century's history, it would do its utmost to encourage resistance by democratic forces in Iraq, Syria, and other Middle East tyrannies. Instead, it bolsters the world's most ruthless dictators, selling them the weapons and industrial infrastructure which enable them to threaten not only their neighbors but every country within the range of today's ballistic missiles.

Those in the West who bother to rationalize such policies say that they are preferable to having fundamentalist regimes take over. But it is precisely the cynical, unprincipled support of corrupt despots which encourages the rise of fundamentalism. Only the hopelessly short-sighted can believe that peace and prosperity in this region will be secured by placating the likes of Saddam Hussein and Hafez Assad.

MEIR RONEN



Non-Jews in the Israeli 'club'

JON SIMONS

THE debate over whether or not Israel should hold its first referendum has become a debate about how to conduct it. Rabin has publicly committed himself to a referendum, on the grounds that substantial withdrawal on or from the Golan exceeds the mandate of the Labor-led government. The rationale is clear to all: such a fateful decision seems to demand extraordinary democratic approval.

A referendum has the trappings of direct democracy: let the people decide. Yet, just as modern democracy doesn't mean direct rule of the sum total of citizens, so is a referendum a mediated popular choice. That is to say, the timing and phrasing of the question put to the voters shapes the result.

Someone else decides what the people should decide. Hence, the Likud demands a veto over wording of the referendum, or its formulation by a neutral body, while also pressing for an early vote.

The government would rather wait until there is an agreement which can be voted for or against, as, by then, the choice can be presented as one between peace under the conditions negotiated, or war. The advantages and disadvantages to both sides are obvious.

A referendum raises a more fundamental issue: Who are the people who should decide? Technically, the answer is obvious: all Israeli citizens who have the right to vote. But when it is demanded that a majority of 65 percent is required,

the anti-democratic and racist intention behind the demand is transparent.

Arab voters, who constitute about 15 percent of the electorate and who are assumed to be in favor of maximum territorial compromise, would be disenfranchised. The higher percentage suggested is designed to neutralize the influence of the Arab vote.

about the size of the required majority in the referendum is also a decision about who are the people who should decide.

BUT WHO has the right to decide who decides - not only about the Golan, but also about who belongs to the people? We face the problem of infinite regress, as if trying to decide the membership criteria

If the Arab vote is rendered ineffective in a Golan referendum, Kahane's ideology will have prevailed

This would constitute a decision that non-Jewish citizens are not really citizens at all.

To a large extent, such a racist decision would reflect widely held opinions as well as state-sanctioned discrimination. There is a long standing taboo against inclusion of non-Zionist parties which receive mostly Arab votes in government coalitions.

The current arrangement, in which such parties "support" the government by not voting with the opposition, borders on violation of that taboo and is thus the target of racists who believe that the government of the Jewish state must rest on Jewish votes alone.

In effect then, any decision

for a club that doesn't yet have such rules.

The best we could do, practically speaking, is to let those already in the club decide; but in the case of our Israeli club, we must confront the contradiction which lends credence to the view that non-Jewish votes cannot be allowed to have a decisive impact on Israel's fateful choices. According to the basic Zionist ideology of the state, this is supposed to be a Jewish club - yet it already has many non-Jewish members.

One of the main advantages of a referendum, decided by a simple majority of votes, would be a democratic message that the State of Israel belongs to all its citizens.

irrespective of nationality or religion.

A referendum under these conditions would thus underline the principle of political equality and recognition of the rights of non-Jewish Israelis.

However, it is not to be denied that there is much tension between these inclusive democratic principles and the exclusive principle of the Jewishness of the state.

Kahane's evil genius was to make explicit this fundamental conflict and, by exposing it, to urge us to renounce democracy for the sake of Jewish exclusivity.

The decision about the size of the required majority, which will not be made by referendum, is as fateful as the decision about the Golan.

A decision in favor of a 65 percent majority would signify preference for the path laid down by Kahane, toward Jewish exclusivity and racism, leading toward a state in which non-Jews would be second-class citizens not only de facto, but also de jure.

A decision for a simple majority, on the other hand, would indicate a desire to include all Israeli citizens not only in fateful decisions, not only in all social and legal rights, but also in the shaping of the character of the state.

If Kahane is truly to be denounced, the path of democracy must be chosen by the Israeli and not just the Jewish people.

The writer teaches political science at the Hebrew University.

Woe to a people, when values go

ELYAKIM HA'ETZNI

ring Jewish nationality isn't Rabin's invention. But he has turned it into a political reality.

Not one Israeli Arab will vote for Israel to stay on the Golan, because for Arabs, an "Israeli" Golan is a Jewish Golan. The Arabs' natural desire to see the Golan in Syrian hands isn't "racism." Nor is the desire to see the issue determined by Jews.

ERADICATING Zionism and

Rabin, the 'new Israeli,' has made a religion out of security

Jewishness from our state is not only a cultural and historic catastrophe; it is also a recipe for destruction. Because any Arab - "Israeli," "Palestinian," Syrian or Jordanian - will always regard the State of Israel as a Jewish state, not the state of a new people of no nationality.

Rabin also said: "If we don't reach an agreement over the Golan, we shall have to cut our welfare budget, and spend that money

on security." What kind of Jewish people does Rabin think lives in Eretz Yisrael, that he dares to confront it with such a crude choice: the Golan or social welfare?

Are we really so corrupt, hedonistic and irresponsible, so bereft of honor and value? Have we nothing left to defend?

And now for the surprise of surprises: In Rabin's new scale of preferences, the Golan settle-

The settlers of Judea and Samaria aren't impressed by the new security status Rabin has bestowed upon them. It wasn't "security" considerations that motivated them to settle in Judea and Ephraim, in the land of the Bible, the prophets and the kings. For them, Rabin's new order of priorities only proves that in the "New Israel," even the doctrine of security has died.

What nonsense it is, to relate to Jerusalem as a security issue.

A safe protects one's jewels. Who needs an empty safe? If even Jerusalem is no more than a safe, what is it protecting?

When security becomes a fetish, when it isn't used to protect values, it is becomes very relative. Now we're prepared to compromise on the Jordan valley, then the Golan. Tomorrow - who knows?

So there they are, laid out before us, the king's new clothes, exclaimed over by all and sundry. Those clothes are true "Israeli," not Jewish and Zionist any more. There's not a thread of national ideals in them. Even as a protective vest, they are worthless.

A naked king, indeed.

The writer, a lawyer and former MK, is a resident of Kiryat Arba.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SADAT'S OPINION OF SYRIA

Sir, - With the controversy around the Golan Heights now raging, it would be very useful to pause and listen to experienced voices of the past on the subject.

The late Egyptian president Anwar Sadat, certainly an expert on his Arab brothers, heaped scorn and mockery on President Jimmy Carter for believing that Assad's word could be trusted. In his posthumous book, *Those I Have Known* (London, 1985), he wrote: "Carter received the same treatment from the Syrians as from the PLO. He baffled and bewildered him. He did not know the political maneuvers to which the Syrians are addicted. Carter did not know how to handle the Syrians, for these were his first dealings with them. He imagined they would be as good as their word and was taken back when he found that the word of a Syrian was in fact 1001 words, and that what they agreed to one day they rejected the next, returning to it the day after. Carter's bewilderment grew. He found himself at a loss."

Now it is Clinton's turn to have his "first dealings with them." It is therefore surprising that Warren Christopher, Carter's disciple, did not

take his erstwhile master's lessons to heart. While shuttling back and forth to Damascus, he seems to believe that Assad's word can be trusted, even asking Israel to do likewise. Assad has given no indication that the leopard has changed its spots. How can Rabin expect Israel to place its fate and survival in the hands of a man who is not trusted by his own brothers?

When under pressure from the US, Rabin should reach back to a presidential Letter of commitment issued by President Gerald Ford and handed to then prime minister Rabin on September 1, 1975, which clearly states: "The US will support the position that an overall settlement with Syria in the framework of a peace agreement must assure Israel's security from attack from the Golan Heights... and will give great weight to Israel's position that any peace agreement with Syria must be predicated on Israel remaining on the Golan Heights. My view in this regard was stated in our conversation of September 13, 1974."

DR. MANFRED R. LEHMANN
Miami Beach, Florida.

DECENT NEWSPAPER

Sir, - I want to thank you for putting out such a decent newspaper. When we came to Israel 15 years ago, with Zionist ideals, I insisted on reading only Hebrew papers, living on a Hebrew-speaking settlement, etc. So I hardly ever looked at the *Post*. And when I did, it was so full, in those days, of left-wing propaganda that I had little taste to read it again.

Now through quite fortuitous circumstances, I happened to read an issue of the *Post*. I was absolutely amazed to find here in Israel such balanced views and intelligent writing. The most amazing thing is that the paper is so clean: no advertisements for prostitutes, no lurid tales about children raping their grandfathers and the like (or whatever is the current perversion which newspapers encourage by publicizing it). I think *The Jerusalem Post* would do the public a great service if it would put out a Hebrew edition for the benefit of those who do not read English.

YERUCHAM (FRANK) LEAVITT
Kiryat Arba.

QUEBEC ELECTIONS

Sir, - As a Canadian citizen studying in Jerusalem, I was pleased that the election results in the province of Quebec merited an editorial comment ("Quebec quibbles," September 19).

I regret, however, your decision to typify the fundamental search for national identity as a "quibble," and those who seek such identity as "whingers" - a term, by the way, which is unused in Canada. I would have expected in Israel a deeper appreciation of the vital importance of nationhood.

While I personally support Quebec's continued participation in the 127-year-old Canadian confederation, I believe that Canadians know that "whither Quebec" means "whither Canada" and is therefore of primary importance on our national agenda.

You might have commented more profitably on the democratic and peaceful process used by both the Quebec nationalists and Canadian federalists in addressing this most serious matter. I believe it is an example for the rest of the world.

DOUGLAS CROSBY
Bethany.

DANGEROUS FOLLY

Sir, - Operation "Uphold Democracy" in Haiti provides yet another example of the folly of relying on US military force to protect Israel from future Syrian aggression.

As the debate intensifies regarding the future of the Golan Heights, it is important to note the overwhelming opposition of the American public to committing US troops to combat, along with the extent to which the Clinton-Carter team was willing to appease Haiti's brutal dictators to avoid placing American lives at risk. This was vividly demonstrated on September 20 when American soldiers stood idly by as Haitian policemen attacked and murdered innocent people who had gathered near the port.

To suggest that foreign soldiers will be more effective guarantors of peace than the IDF forces now positioned on the Golan is dangerously irresponsible, as demonstrated by recent events in Somalia, Bosnia and now Haiti.

STANLEY P. HAAR
Netanya.

ART COVERAGE

Sir, - As regular readers of *The Jerusalem Post* for many years, we, the undersigned, are extremely disappointed that the section on art in the weekend *Magazine* has been noticeably cut in recent weeks.

Until now, *The Jerusalem Post* was the only newspaper in Israel to give local art the attention it deserves. Highly professional and respected art critics gave full coverage to exhibitions all over the country. Many readers (including Hebrew speakers) felt it was worthwhile buying the newspapers just for the art section.

We appeal to you to return the art section to its previous format, which has been running for many years, so that the many art collectors, curators, artists and art lovers, both in Israel and overseas, will continue to buy *The Jerusalem Post* and enjoy reading about this important area of human activity.

FAY LIPSHITZ
and 50 other signatories

Jerusalem.

than those applied by the banana industry," the spokesman said. "We are talking about very abnormal bananas which consumers would not buy anyway."

Courtesy Rayray of Jamco, a Jamaican marketing company, prodded, peeled and examined a bunch of bananas on Sky Television. "Our bananas should have no problem in meeting these minimum size requirements and have no problems on curvature either," he said.

BAD NEWS from the comics page: Gary Larson, creator of the wildly popular *Far Side* strip, is retiring.

The cartoonist, who draws cows in singles bars and bacteria with family lives, says 15 years of drawing the offbeat cartoon is enough. He said he is tired and fears "that if I continue for many more years, my work will begin to suffer, or the very least ease into the graveyard of Mediocre Cartoons."

The comic, which is printed in nearly 1,900 newspapers including *The Jerusalem Post*, will appear for the last time January 1.

Larson, 44, will continue to work on several projects, including *Far Side* books, calendars and greeting cards.

Opinion 4:50

1994 The Jerusalem Post
TATE
eli 'club'
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The big Golan gamble

MOSHE ARENS

THE phrase "calculated risk" gets trotted out whenever situations of uncertainty demand that decisions be made. Those who use the phrase like to create the impression that all possible ramifications of the subject at issue have been scientifically considered. Only then is a decision made, based on a calculation of probabilities.

This is how insurance companies, casinos and the national lottery act. They use statistical data and the laws of probability to calculate the level of risk, the likelihood of profit against loss, and the way to end up with profits virtually assured.

But in political dilemmas, statistical data and the laws of probability simply don't apply. There, the risks are incalculable, and decisions must be based on reasoning, on the desire to avoid getting into intolerable situations, and even on intuition. To talk of taking "calculated risks" in this sphere is to practice delusion, if not outright deception.

Among those who support trading the Golan Heights to Hafez Assad in return for a peace treaty are some who insist on ignoring all the risks.

They make things easy for themselves. Clearly, those who believe that the Middle East has already entered a new era of no more war see no risk in forfeiting the Heights. Those who have conquered that Assad is a sober, balanced and credible leader, one whose word is trustworthy and who will be followed by similar Syrian leaders, can claim we risk nothing by agreeing to relinquish the Golan.

Perhaps most astonishing of all are the "military experts" who fa-

vor withdrawal, claiming that the missile era has rendered the Heights unimportant in time of war - which makes giving them up no security risk at all.

BUT SURELY even these "experts" will admit the difficulty of Israel's position in the event of a surprise attack from the east, if the war's starting line is in the Galilee panhandle and the Jordan Valley. Surely an IDF presence on the Golan would clearly be preferable in such a case.

Those who suggest that Israel rely on the demilitarization of the area, or on the presence of foreign observers after our withdrawal, fail to mention the Heights' tiny dimensions. It takes less than two hours to cross the Golan by car, and not much longer in an armored vehicle. The Syrian forces crossed it in the Yom Kippur War, under battle conditions, in 24 hours.

Remove the irrelevant and incorrect "security" arguments, and one reason only can be found in favor of ceding the Golan: the assumption that an agreement with Assad will end all wars against Israel, rendering the Heights' strategic contribution to the defense

of the country irrelevant.

No one can be sure whether this assumption is correct or not. But one thing is quite clear: the mathematical means of "calculating" the risk involved in such a decision have yet to be invented.

Better, then, not to hide behind fictitious "calculations," when what is really involved is a gamble.

There is no escaping the need to examine all future possibilities, including the possibility of further aggression against Israel. The eventuality of missiles hitting the center of the country will not reduce our crucial need for a military presence on the Golan. To understand this, it is enough to imagine a scenario in which on the war's first day not only do missiles rain down on the heart of the country, but a Syrian army is deployed in the Galilee and Jordan Valley.

We haven't forgotten that our real worry during the Gulf war was not Iraq's Scuds, but that the Iraqi army might approach our eastern border, through Jordan. Even with all the new technology, the Golan Heights represents a vital strategic asset in the event of war.

And there is another thing not given to calculation. The Zionist enterprise and the establishment of the State of Israel are premised on the realization of our historic right in the country through settlement, cultivation of the land, and its armed defense. These have established our right to the Golan over the past 27 years.

The ramifications of our relinquishing the Golan could be the kind no one can calculate.

The writer is a former Likud defense minister.



Aid package, but no money

MITCHELL G. BARD

QUICK, how much money does the US give Israel to assist its economy directly? Three billion dollars? A little over one billion dollars? Can you do better? Would you believe nothing?

Could it be that the Israel lobby goes to great pains every year to secure an aid package for Israel that provides almost no actual money? The answer is yes.

For the last seven years, Congress has annually appropriated \$3 billion in aid to Israel. While the Israel lobby can take pride in its ability to maintain the level of aid at a time of increasing budget constraints, the fact is that the real value has steadily declined as a consequence of inflation. According to AIPAC, the package is now worth less than \$2 billion (in 1986 terms).

More than half the aid (\$1.8 billion) is military assistance. Approximately 75 percent of that sum - that's well over a billion dollars - is spent in the US. The other \$1.2 billion is supposed to be economic aid.

In reality, for the last several years, most of that money (\$1.08 billion in 1993) has been returned to the US as repayment on debts Israel incurred from past loans. Most of the rest is also spent in the US because of a commitment Israel has made to purchase American grain.

The good news is that Israel's debt is declining. Since 1985, Israel has received its aid as a grant. Also that year, the Cranston Amendment was adopted to make sure Israel's economic aid would not be less than the annual debt repayment due on US government loans.

More important, since money is fungible, US assistance frees up other funds to allow Israel to bolster its economy. Without the military aid, Israel could not afford to maintain its qualitative edge.

The point is not that foreign aid has no value; it is that few Americans realize the money isn't going for the direct benefit of Israelis or their nation's economy.

ONE WAY to change this situation overnight would be to forgive Israel's debt, so Israel can put the

\$1.2 billion directly to use to strengthen its economy.

Given President Clinton's decision to forgive Jordan's \$700 million debt because of King Hussein's decision to move toward peace with Israel, it is only fair that the partner to the agreement making the greatest sacrifice receive similar treatment.

This is actually the second opportunity to relieve Israel of its debt burden.

The first was lost in 1990, when President Bush decided to forgive

The US should reward Israel for the risks it has taken for peace by forgiving its debt burden

the \$7 billion debt Egypt incurred from loans it secured after signing the Camp David Accords.

At the time, the Israel lobby argued that since Israel was also a partner to that agreement and its then \$4.5 billion debt was a product of the loans it subsequently obtained, it should receive similar treatment.

The case for parity was strong, and had support in Congress. It is likely the pro-Israel forces in Congress would have blocked the deal for Egypt, had the Israel lobby opposed it.

Just when it appeared that the link between forgiveness of the two nations' debts had been forged, a major Jewish leader struck a deal with President Bush allowing the deal to go through for Egypt, without Israel getting anything.

The news came out of the blue, dumbfounding lobbyists and members who had campaigned for parity. No public explanation was ever given. Privately, however, a decision was apparently taken to

cave in to Bush, who had promised Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak debt relief but didn't want to do the same for Israel (which should have been a warning of things to come).

Israel didn't want a fight either; besides, prime minister Shamir didn't like the deal because he wanted Israel to be able to continue to say it had always repaid its debts to the US, and he feared that erasing them would affect the country's credit rating adversely.

Shamir's concerns were probably exaggerated. It is helpful to have Israel's reliability as an argument in our lobbyists' quivers, as it was during the loan guarantee debate.

But the case can still be made that Israel always repays its debts - until the president decides to forgive them. Everyone will understand that the decision was political rather than economic, that, unlike with Jordan and Egypt, Israel's problem wasn't an inability to pay.

The reality is that the US would never have seen the money from those countries anyway.

Israel's good credit rating should be attributed to the country's record of repaying private debts, as well as the current strength of the economy and optimism about its future. That shouldn't change even if the debt to the US government is forgiven.

According to the State Department, Israel still owes the US over \$1 billion. If so, it could complete its payments and be free of debt by using up another year's worth of economic aid.

AIPAC says Israel actually owes \$12 billion (excluding the new loan guarantees), and will be paying that debt off for another 20 years.

The Clinton administration should reward Israel for the risks it has taken for peace and forgive the remaining debt (or some part of it), so the money can be used for its intended purpose: strengthening the Israeli economy.

Mitchell G. Bard is executive director of the American-Israeli Cooperative Enterprise.

Tragic case of official myopia

JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

A few days after the Finance and Health ministries found a spare NIS 2 billion to prop up Kupat Holim Clalit, Health Ministry director-general Mordechai Shani pleaded poverty. He said he had no funds to pay for TV and radio ads aimed at getting the public to observe the regulation banning smoking in the workplace, which goes into effect on October 19.

"It isn't high enough on our list of priorities," said Prof. Shani. "But we will put some ads in the newspapers," said Prof. Shani. Pamphlets, a phone-in program and posters are also planned.

Over to Health Ministry spokeswoman Yifat Ben-Hai. She says she "isn't certain that public service announcements on TV and radio would have any real effect on public observance of the new regulation."

The new spokeswoman, imported from the Histadrut by Health Minister Ephraim Sneh, is very busy right now. She's putting together a major information campaign (which includes the electronic media) to increase organ donations for transplant; and another to promote AIDS awareness. Total cost to the ministry: NIS 1 million.

OK, taxpayers. Let's take up a collection for our shortsighted Health Ministry decision-makers. Then we'll bus them to the nearest hospital ophthalmology department for a five-second excimer-laser operation - a little surgical procedure that lops off a bit of the eyeball and cures myopia.

World AIDS Day on December 1 is certainly a worthy cause. It deserves whatever publicity it gets. But studies show that previous ministry efforts to encourage safe sexual practices haven't had a marked or long-term effect. More useful, perhaps, would be a year-round educational effort, with particular focus on high-risk populations, including teenagers, homosexuals and drug users.

The number of Israelis dead from AIDS since 1981 has barely topped 200. The number of Israelis who die from smoking-related diseases (heart attacks, lung and other cancers, emphysema, and strokes) each year is 5,000 - or, to put it another way, nearly 10 times the death toll from road accidents. (This doesn't include the tens of thousands of people who develop debilitating and painful conditions

as a result of either smoking or passive exposure to smoke.)

And as for a campaign to encourage the public to donate the organs of their deceased loved ones for transplant, a more practical idea might be to have all residents' identity cards state whether or not they are willing to donate their organs to save another human being in the event of their own lower-brain death.

Even more effective would be a policy giving highest priority for receiving a donated organ to those who have agreed, in writing, to be potential donors. Self-interest is

ing into disgusting, crawly worms. "Cigarettes disgust me!" declared the voice-over. Many viewers agreed, and some quit smoking.

This ad was financed by Joseph Shani, a Jew in California in his eighties, who donated funds for this purpose to the voluntary Israel Society for the Prevention of Smoking.

The only organization that finances anti-smoking messages on an ongoing basis is the Israel Cancer Association, which depends entirely on private donations.

There will be radio ads to mark the new regulation, but they were

Smokers commit a little suicide every day, but the ministry isn't too bothered. It's busy with other things

more powerful than altruism.

In contrast to the drama of deaths from AIDS or heart failure, smokers commit suicide a little bit every day. It takes 10, 20 or 30 years to kill oneself, a family member or a colleague at work with the poisons in tobacco; but it is very close to a sure thing.

SMOKING IS the greatest preventable cause of death in the Western world. Yet hospitals and health fund clinics are filled with patients suffering from smoking-related diseases, costing the country billions of shekels a year in medical treatment, days off from work, fires and work accidents.

Smoking has also been implicated in sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), lower intelligence and asthma in young children, impotence in men, lower birth weight and fetal defects - and premature wrinkling.

Cigarette manufacturers and importers spend more than NIS 45 million a year to advertise their products, but the Health Ministry can't find even a tiny budget for anti-smoking announcements.

Those who watched TV here in the early Eighties will recall the public service ad which showed a pack of cigarettes metamorphos-

paid for by a donation to the anti-smoking society. The ads will refer listeners to the cancer association's information service.

Three months ago, the new health minister signed the regulation, which his predecessor, Prime Minister (and acting health minister) Yitzhak Rabin refused to do. Rabin argued that, as a heavy smoker, he would feel hypocritical about signing such a regulation. But when asked at the signing ceremony what his ministry would do to ensure its widespread observance, Sneh said he had no intention of financing ads in the electronic media. He did not explain why.

If the regulation - one of the strictest in the world - were permanent, this inexplicable neglect

wouldn't be so terrible. But the Knesset Labor and Social Affairs Committee, which approved it unanimously earlier this year, decided to make it a one-year experiment.

This means that widespread public observance of the regulation during the next few months is crucial if the nation's health behavior is to change permanently. The tobacco lobby, circling like birds of prey above a wounded animal, would be only too glad to see the "experimental" regulation falter. The lobby sent its big guns - some of the best-paid lawyers in the country - to the committee to shoot down the proposed regulation, but they missed.

Public opinion and public-health interests prevailed: polls show that 90 percent of the public (including a large majority of smokers) support the restriction. Yet a persuasive educational effort is needed to translate broad theoretical support into behavioral change.

Needless to say, no one will be prevented from smoking at home. The regulation will ban smoking in the country's 60,000 workplaces, from the cabinet room to two-man kiosks.

Isolated smoking rooms may be set aside only if employers agree; any room occupied solely by smokers may be considered a smoking room. Otherwise, smokers may go outdoors to smoke during the daily breaks granted by the law to all employees.

If, in spite of Health Ministry apathy, the regulation becomes a permanent fixture of life here, the Dubek tobacco company might have to start making after-dinner mints.

The writer is the health and science reporter of The Jerusalem Post.

The doctor who has no license

NAFTALI HARRIS

MY wife is a doctor, and her medical license came up for renewal yesterday. Renewing a medical license is a pure technicality. Basically, it involves no more than stamping a piece of paper. The whole thing should take a few minutes. For my wife, it turned into an ongoing nightmare.

Toward the end of August, with plenty of time to spare, she called the renewals clerk at the Ministry of Health. The woman told her what papers to bring along, and not to worry, as there was plenty of time.

My wife took the papers to the Health Ministry, to find that the clerk she had spoken to had gone on holiday. Her replacement took the papers and said she would be notified when the license was ready.

Two weeks later, the original clerk called to say that one of the forms was the wrong one, and explained which form my wife needed to obtain. My wife got the form within a couple of days, and sent it to the ministry by registered mail. She also called the clerk. Again, she was told not to worry - there

was plenty of time. That was a month ago.

A week ago, my wife called to ask what was happening. The clerk explained that she hadn't been able to deal with the matter because of the holidays. The office was moving, she added. My wife should call the following Monday.

In this so-called Western society, bureaucracy is alive, kicking and causing pain

On Monday, the clerk told my wife that she didn't have time to deal with the license. She was told to call a different number in the ministry. The clerk added that there were still three days to October 6. My wife, she said, should

call her two days later.

The office my wife was told to call said they didn't deal with the public, but took her details and promised to notify the first clerk about the status of my wife's license in two days (Wednesday).

My wife called on Wednesday, to be told that the clerk hadn't come to work that day, and she should call tomorrow. That was yesterday, the day her license expired. The following day, she was told that the clerk never worked Wednesdays. That day, she was off on a study course.

In despair, my wife went along to the Health Ministry to see if anyone else would help her. Of course, there was no one.

So my wife's license has expired. She cannot practice medicine, see patients or prescribe drugs. We're dependent on her salary for our livelihood, there wouldn't be any food on the table tomorrow.

The reason I am not using my name on this article is because my wife will probably need this woman again, and cannot risk alienating her.

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1994

Mizrahi being sold short

COMMENT
NEIL COHEN

THE sale of United Mizrahi Bank clunked into third gear yesterday as the bidders finally submitted their bids, albeit after several delays.

Senior bankers at Mizrahi complain that their bank is going for a song, and it is hard not to feel some sympathy for them. Rumor has it that the bids are going to come in below the \$400 million to \$450m. at which the bank was independently valued.

Not so long ago Mizrahi was the lame duck of the banking sector: it has been transformed, quickly, into a nice little earner. Its subsidiary, Tefahot, is the leading mortgage bank and it has built a powerful position in the securities business.

Mizrahi insiders reckon that Tefahot alone is easily worth \$300m., valuing Mizrahi's 86% stake at over \$250m. Mizrahi's foreign subsidiaries have \$50m. of equity capital, so any buyer paying \$350m.-\$400m., the prices touted, would be getting Mizrahi's other, and not unattractive businesses, for \$50m.-\$100m.

It is hard to argue with the contention that the government could have raised far more money by spinning off Tefahot from Mizrahi. But even Mizrahi managing director David Bloomberg has argued that his bank should retain control of Tefahot.

This, however, is largely academic. An asset's value to a seller is what the highest bidder is willing to pay for it, not some theoretical multiple of earnings or assets.

To spin off subsidiaries looks like an even more attractive option when it comes to Bank Leumi where the likelihood of only one bid makes it even more important for the government to demonstrate that it is not giving the bank away. Moreover, Leumi's two main subsidiaries are in completely unrelated businesses (real estate and insurance).

Unfortunately, senior management fiercely opposes moves that would diminish their fiefdoms

over which they rule, and it commands considerable clout with government decision makers.

The reality of the boycott AFTER A bout of euphoria at the beginning of the week, following the news that six Arab states have suspended the secondary and tertiary boycotts, the TASE seems to have returned to reality - and wisely so.

The removal of the secondary boycott is certainly good news. Whatever estimates one believes of the damage done to the economy by the boycott, fewer foreign companies were competing to sell to us.

This has bumped up the prices charged by those that do, while local companies have been denied efficiency-forcing competition, technology and access to key distribution channels for their own products.

There will also be a psychological benefit. There is less of a stigma involved in doing business with Israel, and less perceived political risk.

But anyone expecting a torrent of foreign investment is deluding himself.

Certainly, since the signing of the DOP a year ago, companies and delegations from countries for whom Israel was a no-no have come for a look-see. But few have bitten. There are some interesting technologies here, but there are over one billion consumers in Asia who are getting richer and more acquisitive far faster than the vast majority of the Middle East. The big populations round here are just too poor.

Some benefits will come. More benefits will come later. But the big bucks will flow only when our neighbors' economies show real signs of moving out of the dark ages, and we become a logical regional center for the multinationals.

Consortiums bid for controlling interest in United Mizrahi

THE Ofer-Wertheim consortium and the Akirov-Steinmetz-Schechter-Nimrod group yesterday submitted bids for the purchase of controlling interest in United Mizrahi Bank.

La Nationale Insurance, which was expected to participate in the tender with Akirov and Steinmetz, backed out of the tender two hours before the deadline.

MI Holdings, the company responsible for selling the commercial banks, agreed to extend the deadline for submitting bids from two o'clock to five o'clock because of technical problems. The extension gave the Akirov-Steinmetz group time to amend the sale document.

Sources close to the sale process

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

said the potential buyers value Mizrahi at between \$300 million and \$400m. An independent evaluation by accountant Ya'acov Barkai and Yitzhak Swary, which had been commissioned by MI Holdings, valued the bank at between \$450m. and \$500m.

The government is offering 26 percent of Mizrahi shares and an option to buy an additional 25%. MI Holdings announced it will examine the price proposals and enter negotiations with the two groups on Sunday. The consortium that offers the highest bid is expected to purchase the bank.

Gil Leidner, managing director of MI Holdings, stressed that

there is a minimum price below which the bank would not be sold. He said the government will have to re-evaluate the Mizrahi sale procedure if it fails to receive the price demanded.

The Ofer-Wertheim consortium includes a number of companies controlled by Sami and Yuli Ofer, Muzi Wertheim, chairman of the Central Bottling Co., and Abe Feinberg.

The Akirov-Steinmetz group is made up of businessman Alfred Akirov and Elrov, the Steinmetz family and Belgian diamond merchants Leon Schechter and David Nimrod. The consortium has received the Bank of Israel's agreement to include La Nationale in the group if it wins the tender.

Bank of Israel relaxes foreign currency restrictions

JOSE ROSENFELD

THE Bank of Israel yesterday loosened several foreign currency restrictions, including increasing the foreign currency allotment to traveling businessmen and raising the limit of Israeli emigrants' assets that can be withdrawn in foreign currency.

Business travelers are now allowed to take out up to \$300 in foreign currency a day to cover their daily travel expenses rather than \$200, and may buy up to \$9,000 in foreign currency per trip, instead of \$5,000.

Other travelers are still limited to \$3,000 per trip, although now they can withdraw additional foreign currency abroad through their credit card, as long as the money is transferred by another resident. The money will be considered a transfer of financial support or a gift to the credit card holder.

Residents traveling abroad for medical care are now allowed to take out the equivalent of \$200 a day, instead of \$70, and their foreign currency ceiling has been lifted to \$15,000 from \$5,000. The increased allotment also applies to the person accompanying the individual undergoing medical treatment. The requirement that only those getting medical care abroad be entitled to this special allotment after a month's stay has been eliminated.

Survivors of Nazi persecution are now permitted to borrow foreign currency from individual foreigners to pay for their entitlement to social security benefits from Germany and Austria. Previously, survivors were only allowed to borrow from foreign banks.

Emigrants who have not returned for more than sixty days in two years after leaving the country permanently will be allowed to buy up to \$20,000 annually in foreign currency against their local assets, starting from the third year of their departure from the country. From the seventh year onward, they will be allowed to take up to \$50,000 a year. Emigrants over 60 will be entitled to withdraw \$50,000 a year from the third year on.

Transport Ministry threatens British Airways

HAIM SHAPIRO

THE Transport Ministry yesterday threatened to stop British Airways flights from landing at Ben-Gurion Airport because of a dispute over ticket prices.

The ministry was objecting to an announcement by the British carrier that it would charge \$799 for a round-trip ticket to New York. The price is the same as a bargain winter fare offered by El Al, but a British Airways spokesman pointed out that the El Al fare is only for the Israeli carrier's twice-weekly flights to Newark Airport, while the BA fare refers to the two daily flights from Tel Aviv to London, connecting to the many flights from London to New York.

In a statement yesterday, the Transport Ministry said that the Civil Aviation Authority was considering stopping a number of British Airways flights from landing in Israel.

The statement said that the authority was displeased by publicity about the cheap fares without that had not yet been authorized by the CAA. According to Israel's new open-skies policy, an airline must give the CAA two weeks' notice of any new prices.

CAA head Menahem Sharon said that he had asked the body's legal adviser what steps could be taken against the airline. Sharon said that BA had broken Israel's air agreements with Britain and with the US. Sharon ordered the airline to immediately stop selling the reduced-price tickets until the price had been authorized by the CAA.

In response, a spokesman for British Airways expressed shock at the announcement. He said he did not understand why the CAA should act against low prices, which were for the benefit of the flying public.

Treasury allocates NIS 50m. for surplus eggs

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

THE Treasury has agreed to transfer NIS 50 million to the Ministry of Agriculture to help solve the crisis in egg production, the ministries agreed yesterday morning.

The money will be used to finance the removal of surplus eggs from the market and compensa-

tion to farmers. The Agriculture Ministry has agreed to continue to reduce egg surpluses until the end of the year. Egg marketers and distributors will receive 12.8 agorot for each egg sold to industry or destroyed. In addition, farmers will be compensated 2.5 agorot per egg.

The Agriculture Ministry has already invested NIS 60m. in reducing the egg surplus, which it put at 500 million eggs a year.

During the last few months, the Treasury has stopped paying farmers for surplus eggs for fear of exceeding the budget. As a result, farmers have complained of a significant drop in income.

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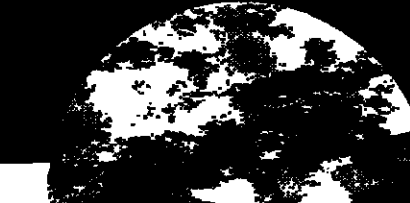
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BUSINESS BRIEFS

Indigo announced yesterday that Toyo Ink Manufacturing, its distributor in Japan and the Far East, has taken delivery of its first 10 E-Print 1,000 presses. The first digital offset color presses will be installed in the Australian service bureau WYSIWYG.

The government must revise its economic policy to put an emphasis on increasing profits from exports and improving companies' ability to compete against imports, Dan Propper, president of the Manufacturers Association, said yesterday.

Propper proposed the government cut expenses, significantly restrain wage increases, encourage savings, and speed up privatization. He said these measures will solve the deficit in the balance of payments and slow down the rise in inflation.

Deputy Industry and Trade Minister Masha Lubelsky has demanded that Tuva prove that the price of its Me'uden 5% and 1/2% white cheese reflects an advertised 15% discount. Lubelsky's office had received complaints that certain retailers were not honoring Tuva's promised price.

TWA has filed a NIS 26m. suit against Aviation Services and its shareholders Delek, Sonol, and Paz. Aviation Services holds the license as sole supplier of airline fuel at local airports. Delek, which holds 22% of Aviation Services, has issued a statement saying its legal advisers see TWA's chances of winning as weak. The Chambers of Commerce will host an economic delegation from Morocco next week. Members of the delegation include members of parliament, representatives of Morocco's economic authority, and the heads of the chambers of commerce in Casablanca, Kenitra, and Agadir.

Shekem workers: We'll halt sale

RACHEL NEIMAN

TWO documents presented to Shekem management by its workers have received differing responses, and workers are threatening to halt the sale of the department store chain if their demands are not met.

Yesterday, the Histadrut union of clerical, administrative, and public service employees signed a joint labor agreement with the national committee of Shekem employees, representing 2,800 full-time workers.

The agreement changes Shekem's system of wages and abolishes the linkage between them and those in the public sector. The method of assigning workers a grade has also been changed.

But management rejected a minimum list of demands, including increased worker compensation should the new management go through with expected lay-offs and continuing other benefits such as grants for the primary and secondary school education of employees' children.

In response, the union has asked the Histadrut to announce a work dispute and has requested a restraining order from the labor courts halting the sale of a controlling interest in Shekem "until an agreement is reached."

Shekem general manager Meron Ne'eman announced that the sale of controlling interest would be finalized by year's end.

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (NIS/USD)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
Currency (deposit rate)	4.875	5.125	5.525
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.875	5.125	5.525
Pound sterling (\$100,000)	4.875	5.125	5.525
German mark (\$M 250,000)	4.875	5.125	5.525
Swiss franc (\$F 200,000)	4.875	5.125	5.525
Yen (¥10 million yen)	4.875	5.125	5.525

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (NIS/USD)

Currency	Bank of Israel	Bank Leumi	Bank Hapoalim	Bank Leumi
Currency basket	2.940	2.940	2.940	2.940
U.S. dollar	2.940	2.940	2.940	2.940
German mark	1.975	1.975	1.975	1.975
Pound sterling	4.745	4.745	4.745	4.745
French franc	0.570	0.570	0.570	0.570
Japanese yen (100)	3.021	3.021	3.021	3.021
Dutch guilder	1.705	1.705	1.705	1.705
Swiss franc	2.281	2.281	2.281	2.281
Swedish krona	0.405	0.405	0.405	0.405
Norwegian krona	0.444	0.444	0.444	0.444
Danish krone	0.464	0.464	0.464	0.464
Finland mark	0.624	0.624	0.624	0.624
Canadian dollar	2.211	2.211	2.211	2.211
Australian dollar	2.258	2.258	2.258	2.258
S. African rand	0.582	0.582	0.582	0.582
Belgian franc (10)	0.941	0.941	0.941	0.941
Austrian schilling (10)	2.703	2.703	2.703	2.703
Italian lira (100)	1.931	1.931	1.931	1.931
Jordanian dinar	—	—	—	—
Egyptian pound	—	—	—	—
Irish punt	4.800	4.761	4.58	4.48
Spanish peseta (100)	2.355	2.357	2.27	2.43

* These rates vary according to bank. ** Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

Pioneer International Ltd

South African Economic Statistics

Exchange rates	Commercial Rand/\$	Prices	Prices	% Change
(buy)	3.572	5.184	28.94	-0.80%
Financial Rand/\$	4.220	4.235	0.35%	
Commercial Rand/£	5.640	5.588	-0.93%	
Interest rates	Money Market (BA)	12.00%	11.60%	3.45%
(Ry)	Escom 2006	15.93%	15.82%	0.70%
Escom 2020	16.45%	16.88%	-1.36%	
RSA 150	15.65%	15.47%	0.52%	
Prices: UTL	UAL Max Income	10.78%	12.32%	-12.50%
(buy)	OM Investors	12.4528	40.8565	0.97%
Escom 168	69.05219	69.5179	-0.66%	
Guardbank	35.3428	34.9681	1.07%	
UAL Gift	11.3037	11.9829	-5.67%	
UAL Max Income	10.0483	10.3726	-3.13%	
Shares: De Beers	102.00	99.50	2.51%	
(close)	Vanil Reef	472.00	480.00	-1.67%
Anglo American	238.00	235.00	1.28%	
Barlows	31.00	28.00	6.90%	
SA Brews	84.00	81.00	3.70%	
Sasol	36.00	34.00	5.88%	
Tiger Oats	40.50	40.00	1.25%	
Iscon	4.85	4.40	10.23%	
JSE Actuaries Overall	5.654	5.583	1.27%	

COMMENTS: There was talk today to be a rush of foreign investment into South Africa after the release of recent US credit ratings. SA tax rates are encouraging the outflow of capital and local experts believed that capital outflows needed to be staunch if SA was to rid itself of attitudes of certain political groups are contributing to ongoing capital outflows. A local economic report criticized SA's fiscal policies which they believed threatened to encourage more capital outflows and were thus not in harmony with monetary policies.

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16 Serb soldiers, 4 nurses killed in Bosnian attack

SIXTEEN soldiers and four nurses were killed in an attack believed carried out by Bosnian government forces, the United Nations said yesterday. The victims' throats had been slit and some of the bodies burned.

The top UN official in Yugoslavia, Yasushi Akashi, said the 20 bodies "were in many cases mutilated." He called it a "tragic incident" and said he feared the agreement with Serbs that reopened the Sarajevo airport yesterday was in jeopardy.

Details were sketchy, but Akashi said the bodies were found by UN peacekeepers yesterday afternoon on Mount Igman, just outside a demilitarized zone and southwest of Sarajevo.

Akashi disclosed the grisly details after making a personal protest to Bosnia President Alija Izetbegovic. There was no immediate comment from the Bosnian government.

"In all probability, the Bosnian government side may have been implicated, although we do not have straight, direct evidence to that effect," Akashi said.

A UN military spokesman, Maj. Koos Sol, confirmed a government attack by Moslem-led forces on Serb positions in the area.

Akashi, who appealed for calm, said he hoped the killings would not undermine the airport accord.

A UN plane landed late yesterday afternoon at the airport, ending a two-week shutdown imposed by Serbs in retaliation for a NATO attack on one of their tanks.

Bosnian Serbs grudgingly agreed to let the airport reopen

SAMIR KRILIC
SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina

after tough talks Wednesday with Akashi at their stronghold in Pale, east of Sarajevo.

The airport has been closed because of veiled Serb threats to shoot at planes after a NATO airstrike on a Serb tank September 22. UN commanders requested the strike after Serb attacks on French peacekeepers.

The Bosnian capital has relied on the UN airlift for about 80 percent of its food and other needs during most of a 29-month-old siege by Serb forces.

Serbs also have cut off the only remaining land route into the city, and UN aid officials say supplies are running low.

Aid officials said flights carrying food and other supplies as part of

the humanitarian airlift would not resume before Friday at the earliest.

Spokesman Kris Janowski of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees agency said officials of countries participating in the airlift were meeting to decide whether conditions were safe enough to resume flights.

Serbs and Bosnian government forces did manage to make one of their largest prisoner swaps of the war earlier yesterday.

After a nearly 10-hour delay, the exchange began at dawn at Sarajevo's Brotherhood and Unity Bridge. The exchange was carried out in a series of shuttles across the bridge in UN vehicles.

UN spokeswoman Claire Grimes said 295 prisoners were exchanged. Bosnian Serbs released 166 people, and the Moslem-led government released 129. (AP)



South African President Nelson Mandela prepares to blow a kiss to the joint meeting of Congress yesterday. Applauding are Vice President Al Gore and House Speaker Thomas Foley. (AP)

Mandela calls on US to promote democracy, peace and prosperity

WASHINGTON (AP) — South African President Nelson Mandela called on the United States yesterday to seize the opportunity offered by the end of the Cold War to promote "democracy, peace and prosperity" throughout the world.

Speaking to a joint meeting of Congress, Mandela said the time has come to move away from the ideological battles of the Cold War and toward the more positive goal of making it possible "for all peoples to enjoy the right to full human dignity."

Mandela entered the House chamber to the cheers of the assembled gathering eager to pay tribute to the principal force behind the establishment of a new South Africa no longer afflicted by

white supremacist rule. "I come out of a continent with whose travails and suffering you are very familiar," Mandela said in his prepared remarks. "You will therefore understand it easily why I stand up to say that for such a powerful country as yours, democracy, peace and prosperity are as much in your interest as ours."

"Because I am an African, you will, I am certain, understand why I should stand here and say that it is our deeply held belief that the new world order that is in the making must focus on the creation of a world of democracy, peace and prosperity for all humanity."

Mandela, whose remarks were filled with soaring rhetoric and quotes from literary luminaries, was interrupted with applause 11

times during his 35-minute address, attended by all but a few senators and House members. Most sat transfixed by the words of the famed prisoner turned president.

Wednesday night, Mandela offered a sober analysis of the humanitarian crises facing not only his country but all of predominantly black sub-Saharan Africa. "Africa faces a terrible food crisis," Mandela said after receiving a \$100,000 prize for his leadership in the fight against hunger in Africa.

He said about 34 million people in the sub-Saharan region suffer from food shortages, mostly as a result of civil strife. He called it "the worst humanitarian crisis in modern times."

Haitian food merchant kills alleged looter

PORT-AU-PRINCE (Reuters) — The owner of a food warehouse opened fire on a crowd of Haitians advancing on his business yesterday, killing one person and injuring four others, US military officials said.

US troops arrived on the scene to tend to the injured and disperse the crowd angered by the shooting, which occurred at 4 a.m. EDT outside a food depot containing bags of sugar and cans of powdered milk.

US soldiers later drove away, leaving Haitian police to guard the warehouse with M-16 rifles and hold off a crowd of Haitian slum dwellers.

The shooting took place the day Haiti's parliament was to debate a draft amnesty law which could shield Lieutenant-General Raoul Cedras and other military leaders from arrest if it is passed before the country's exiled president, Jean-Bertrand Aristide returns.

The draft, presented Wednesday by interim Justice Minister Rene Prosper, covers only political crimes, but would allow Aristide to issue a decree broadening the amnesty.

Aristide, ousted in a 1991 military coup, has pledged to return to Haiti October 15 under a US-brokered agreement that calls for an amnesty, but does not require one, after the populist president's return.

US intervention forces continued to raid homes of suspected paramilitary gunmen blamed for many of the political killings since the coup, arresting one prominent member Wednesday, witnesses said.

Troops have been able to maintain order generally in the Haitian capital, but incidents such as the one at the warehouse before dawn yesterday showed the unsettled nature of the situation.

"The owner saw a crowd coming toward his warehouse," US military spokesman Colonel Barry Willey told reporters. "He fired into the crowd of people... one individual was killed and four were wounded."

Warehouse owner Alan Francillon said looters broke into his business Monday by smashing a hole in the wall and stole a large quantity of sugar and milk, and he was not going to let it happen again.

Study finds remote AIDS threat, less sex in US

CHICAGO (Reuters) — A new study of sex in the United States has found Americans are far less sexually active than previously thought, and as a result AIDS is unlikely to become an epidemic in society at large.

The study, to be published this weekend by the University of Chicago, found Americans have sex about once a week, but a third of all adults engage in it only a few times a year or not at all.

Women typically have only two sexual partners over a lifetime,

while men have six, according to the study that its researchers said was based on a representative sample of the US population — 3,432 people age 18 to 50.

Researchers also found less than 3 percent of adult males define themselves as homosexual or bisexual — a figure far lower than the 10 percent estimated by Alfred Kinsey in a 1948 study.

"Our data indicate that most of the population has sex relatively infrequently, has very few sexual partners and has one partner or

none for most of their adult life," the researchers reported.

"We found... that 83 percent of adult Americans either had no sexual partner or had just one in the past year and were faithful to their partner."

After more than a decade during which public health experts often warned of the widespread risk of acquired immune deficiency syndrome, the most head-turning conclusions emerging from the study may be these:

"We conclude that sexual contacts between infected and uninfected groups are too infrequent, and the few people who do become infected in this way have too few partners and their partners have too few partners to start an epidemic."

"With a virus that is as difficult to transmit as HIV, this means that the disease is hard-pressed to spread beyond the groups that are now afflicted."

"We believe, therefore, that AIDS is, and is likely to remain, confined to exactly the risk groups where it began: gay men and intravenous drug users and their sexual partners. We are convinced that there is not and very unlikely ever will be a heterosexual AIDS epidemic in this country."

The university termed it "the first comprehensive and scientifically accurate survey" ever undertaken of sex in the United States.

The quotations are from a book *Sex in America — A Definitive Survey* (Little Brown \$22.95) to be published Sunday along with the report and survey itself, titled "The Social Organization of Sexuality — Sexual Practices in the United States."

Swiss cult had been drugged, police say

AUTOPSIES on some of the 48 dead in the apparent mass suicide of doomsday cult members in Switzerland showed they received a powerful drug while still alive, an investigator said yesterday.

Examining magistrate Andrei Piller told a news conference in the Swiss village of Cheiry, where 23 of the victims were found, that the theory of a collective suicide had not been abandoned, but some evidence "makes us think of an execution."

At the same time, he said some material gathered on the idyllic, isolated Alpine farm where the bodies were found appeared to confirm that the cult members had gone to their deaths of their own free will.

"We found a letter on one of the persons addressed to a member of their family in which they said they were coming to Switzerland to die," Piller said.

A total of 25 other bodies were discovered in the Swiss alpine

hamlet of Granges, 160 kms from Cheiry, and two were found dead in a house north of the Canadian city of Montreal. All had apparently died on Tuesday. The bodies were found on Wednesday after fires broke out in all three locations.

Police linked the three incidents to "The Order of the Solar Temple" cult led by Luc Joutet, a Belgian citizen and homeopathic doctor known as a charismatic preacher who warned the world would soon come to an end.

Piller said police had issued arrest warrants in connection with the deaths in Switzerland, but he declined to say how many and for whom. There was no immediate sign whether Joutet or his close associate, Joseph di Mambro, were among the dead.

One former cult member inter-

viewed by a Swiss newspaper said he believed Joutet might have fled Switzerland, taking cult funds with him.

All 48 bodies found in Cheiry and Granges were taken yesterday to a forensic institute in Lausanne, a university town on Lake Geneva, for autopsy. Doctors there said results might not be known for three to four days.

But Piller told the news conference in Cheiry, a picture-community in rolling green hills where cowbells mingled yesterday with a memorial to the victims from the village church bells, there had been some preliminary findings.

"The signs on the victims make us believe that a powerful product, not yet identified, was administered either by injection or intravenous drip," he added. Three

rifles had been found near the dead.

Most of the dead in Cheiry had plastic bags over their heads and gunshot wounds. Nearly all were found lying in a circle in an underground conference room and heads pointed outwards.

A fireman who brought several bodies out of a partially burned ski chalet at Granges said many of the dead there had "beatific smiles" on their faces as though they were content with what was happening.

In one room, a man and a woman lay side-by-side on a bed holding hands. In another room, a boy of about six and a teenage girl also lay in a peaceful pose of total relaxation, the fireman told Reuters.

Piller said a suspicious element at Cheiry included the discovery of two cars belonging to cult members abandoned at a local railway station. This suggested the owners could have left the death site at the last moment.

British weddings are on the rise — and so is the cost

LONDON (Reuters) — The number of British couples getting married is steadily rising and so is the cost, with the average price tag for a stylish wedding placed at £11,000 (\$17,440) this year, a magazine survey said yesterday.

You and Your Wedding magazine, whose survey interviewed 500 brides-to-be, said this meant the average cost of a wedding had risen 20 percent in a year. The survey said the £11,000 included everything from the reception to flowers and honeymoon.

But it added that a bargain basement ceremony could still be had at one of Britain's register offices where officials will marry a couple for just under £40 (\$63).

More than half of the prospective brides were already living with their partners and 40 percent of couples were planning to pay for the wedding themselves, rather than the parents of the bride as tradition dictates.

19-year-old woman charged in killing of three Paris policemen

PARIS (AP) — Florence Rey, a skinny 19-year-old described by neighbors as shy and polite, was charged yesterday with joining her boyfriend in killing three policemen and a taxi driver in a blood-bath that shocked France.

Rey, who has refused to answer questions since her capture late Tuesday, remained silent during a 90-minute court hearing as she was charged with murder, attempted murder and kidnapping.

Her companion, Audrey Maupin, 22, died at a hospital late Wednesday, about 24 hours after he was wounded in the second of two shootouts during a wild chase through eastern Paris.

Rey, daughter of a teacher and a plumber, grew up in a low-income, high-crime neighborhood in Argenteuil, a working-class Paris suburb.

Neighbors said the young woman rarely returned home in recent months, but remembered her as quiet, respectful and well-dressed.

They said she never spoke of politics or gave any hint that she was keeping at her house docu-

ments with anarchist slogans and phrases such as "To die is easy" and "Death to cops." Police investigators found these items in a search Wednesday.

The incident began Tuesday night when a masked couple sprayed a fence at a car pound, scalded tear gas at two policemen and made off with their pistols.

For their getaway, the couple commandeered a taxi, taking the driver and a passenger hostage. After about 10 minutes, the driver, Amadou Diallo, deliberately steered his taxi into a police car with three officers inside.

Two officers got out of their car and were fatally wounded as the couple opened fire, police said. Diallo was executed by Rey at point-blank range, witnesses said.

The couple next hijacked a Renault sedan, taking the driver hostage. Jacky Bensimon, the driver of the Renault, described Rey as the "leader of the operations," telling RTL radio how she ordered Maupin to take a shotgun and fire through the car's smashed rear window at their police pursuers.

Britain celebrates Poetry Day

LONDON (Reuters) — Britain yesterday celebrated its first National Poetry Day with readings in piazzas, theatres and even prisons to underline what enthusiasts are calling a renaissance of verse in the country.

"The response has been excellent," said Sue Hubbard, organizer of a reading in London's bustling Covent Garden yesterday.

"People are discovering that poetry is not just about pretty flowers but about everyday things

like trains and football.

"We want to change poetry's starchy image. Some people have been sitting here listening for hours," Hubbard told Reuters, as a succession of young poets mounted the rostrum to recite their verse in brilliant autumnal sunshine.

Booksellers Waterstone's said the number of poetry volumes sold last year represented 1.2 percent of its entire sales, making it more popular than gardening or hardback fiction.

We mourn the death
in New York, on October 4, 1994
of our friend

SHMUEL MERLIN

Secretary General of:

The Committee for a Jewish Army
of Stateless and Palestinian Jews;

The Emergency Committee to save the Jewish people of Europe;
The Hebrew Committee of National Liberation;
Member of the First Knesset.

Our heartfelt condolences to his wife Winona.

On behalf of his friends:
Nili and Hillel Kook
Esther and Alex Rafaeli
Ruth Tamir

Twenty-one years have passed since our beloved sons

RAMI RUBIN י"א

EHUD DONIGER י"א

fell in the Yom Kippur War.

We will assemble at their gravesides on
Monday, October 10, 1994, at 4:30 p.m.
at the cemetery in Moshav Haborim.

The Families

and members of Moshav Haborim

To the Cohen Family of Israel and Denmark

We share your sorrow on the sudden loss of

PNINA COHEN י"א

From the family in Cleveland

We regret to announce the passing of our
beloved father, grandfather and great-grandfather

MOSES (Moshe) SAMUEL

October 5, 1994 (30 Tishrei 5755)

Landes Family

Ben-Shlomo Family

Noy Meir Family

and members of Beit Ha'emek

Shiva at the Ben-Shlomo home in Kibbutz Beit Ha'emek.

On the second anniversary of the death of our
dearly, missed and beloved

SIMON SCHMIDT י"א

a memorial service will be held at
Kiryat Shaul Cemetery on
Monday October 10, at 2 p.m.

The Family

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Message to All Form
Memorials
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remember the death of
our friend, the late
Shmuel Merlin, who was
born in Poland and
came to Israel in 1948.
He was a man of great
character and a true
friend to all who knew
him. He was a man of
great faith and a true
believer in the State of
Israel. He was a man of
great love and a true
lover of his people. He
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Please send your name, former name if applicable, current
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London NW11 9BP
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Museums

TEL AVIV MUSEUM OF ART. Pamela Levy. Paintings 1933-94 drawn to the City - video documentary on Pamela Levy/Adam Berg. Perseus/Hysteria - Adam Berg. Focuses on the museum's function as a view-

ing space. A Fence of Cypressess, Fruit of Time, Mr. Sweetie - works by Itzhak Golan, Michael Natan, Gil Shachar and others. Separate Worlds - original, nonconforming work from the past year's 17th Century Dutch Family Portraits 169-189. Cent. European Art Impressionism, Post-Impressionism/Jewish Artists in Europe between the Wars/Moshe and Sara Mayer. Col. Sculpture 20th Cent. Modern Masters. Midre-Summital Coll. HELIXA RUI- RARY ART. Lorna Simpson. For the Sake of the Viewer - photography exhibition 1990-70-88 - local contemporary artists in photograph. Hours: Weekdays 10:00 a.m.-6 p.m. Tue., 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Fri., Sat., 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Art Education Center.

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Mount Scopus campus, in English, daily Sun-Thur., 11 a.m. from Bronfman Reception Center, Sherman Administration Bldg. Shabbat 5:05, Sat. Shabbat 5:30, Mincha - Shema 4:10 Daily at 7 a.m.

AMIT Women. For a free conducted tour of our installations, call Jerusalem 619222; Tel Aviv 5235154. Hours: 8:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Sun-Thur.

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BAKA, 3 rooms,

Mac TA beats Bellinzona, advances to best-of-16

JOEL GORDIN

MACCABI Tel Aviv basketball team did not have to try hard last night to beat mediocre Swiss champs Bellinzona, 89-62, at Yad Eliyahu.

The game was the second leg of the final preliminary round to the European Club Championships' best-of-16 round. Maccabi won the first leg in Switzerland last week, 55-49, and will advance to the best-of-16.

In late action last night, Greece's PAOK Saloniki beat Hapoel Tel Aviv, 89-62.

The Swiss must have caused some panic among the Maccabi management when they bounced into an early lead, and for the first five minutes they genuinely looked like the better team.

However, Maccabi recovered from their shaky start thanks to some excellent play by Maccabi point guard Guy Goodes and sharp shooting by Doron Jamchev.

It soon became apparent to the Maccabi players that Bellinzona was no giant-killer. The Israeli club regained confidence and raced away to a 47-25 halftime

lead.

The red-hot Goodes did most of the damage. He not only set up both Jamchev and Norris Coleman with splendid assists, but sank two great three-pointers. After the break, Maccabi went through a long lean period when the Swiss scored 10 points in succession, reducing Maccabi's lead from 27 to 17.

However, Maccabi coach Muli Katzurin tried a court combination which included both of his quick guards, Goodes and Yisrael Elimelech. The strategy worked against the slow Swiss club, most of whose players are over 30. Goodes, Elimelech, Jamchev, Coleman and the ubiquitous Moti Daniel ran the Swiss off their tired feet, and towards the end it was just a question of by how much the Israelis would win.

Katzurin finished the match with three youth players - Alon Ben-Zaken, Viki Revach and Assaf Dotan - on the court in an easy win over a squad which has no place in the top echelons of European basketball.

However, the Maccabi game still has too many ups and downs. The points which the Swiss did score in the second half were gained through Maccabi mistakes. The Israeli champions still have much work to do before facing the best Europe can offer.

For Maccabi, Coleman had 25 points, Jamchev 20, Goodes 14, Radisav Curic 9 and Terry Fair 7.

Bellinzona was led by Igor Gunic with 14, while Norris Bell scored 13 and Andy Fields 10.

Hapoel Galil Elyon yesterday morning joined Hapoel Eilat and Maccabi Rishon LeZion in the third round of the Korac Cup by easily defeating Slovenia's Koper Slovenia 110-87 in the second leg of the second round played at Kfar Blum.

The visitors only arrived in Israel at 1 a.m., but FIBA demanded the game be played no later than 10. The Galil management took advantage of the strange hour to pack the stadium with more than 2,000 schoolchildren. For Galil, Brad Leaf and Oded Katash each scored 24.

China hoarding all the gold

HIROSHIMA (AP) - China's women were still undefeated in the pool, and its gymnasts and divers as dazzling as ever. But a close battle was brewing at the Asian Games.

For second best, of course. And host country Japan was taking a beating.

Building on a surge in gold-winning that started the previous day, South Korea swept all five wrestling events and added victories in gymnastics, bowling, swimming, fencing and weightlifting to boost its tally by 11 yesterday.

With Japan adding only four golds to its own total, the gap vanished between the two perennial rivals, who each have vowed to outdo the other here. Each had 17.

Neither country was even close to mighty China, which reaped its biggest single-day gold haul of the games yet, 15, to bring its total gold count to 43.

Other countries on the gold chart after four full days of competition at the games, Asia's regional Olympics, were Kazakhstan with two, and Syria, Iran and Taiwan with one apiece.

Gymnastics proved the biggest gold mine for China yesterday.

"Mighty Mouse," 15-year-old Mo Huilan, won in the vault, uneven bars, beam and floor exercises. She also has a share in China's women's team gold, but missed all-round gold Wednesday with a fall from the beam. All-round gold went instead to Qiao Ya.

Yeo Hong-chul of South Korea won the vault, keeping China's men from a similar sweep.

China's men also had to share the gold in the men's pommel horse final: Huang Huadong of China, Yoshiaki Hakekeda of Japan and Lee Jang-hyung of South Korea all scored 9.750.

China's Dai Guohong, meanwhile, won the women's 100 breaststroke in a games record time of 1:09.87 and Liu Limin took the 100-meter butterfly gold.

China's men had a bit more difficulty in the pool also, winning the men's 200 breaststroke with a games record, but losing the 400-meter freestyle relay to Japan and the 400-meter freestyle to a South Korean.

In diving, Chinese world champion Tan Shuping and Olympic gold medalist Sun Shuwei had to fight off challenges from their own teammates. Tan defeated another world champion, 10-meter platform titlist Fu Mingxia, for the games record, but losing the 400-meter freestyle relay to Japan and the 400-meter freestyle to a South Korean.

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WELL-BALANCED - China's Mo Huilan performs on the beam during her routine in the women's gymnastics final at the Asian Games yesterday.

(Reuters)

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In diving, Chinese world champion Tan Shuping and Olympic gold medalist Sun Shuwei had to fight off challenges from their own teammates. Tan defeated another world champion, 10-meter platform titlist Fu Mingxia, for the games record, but losing the 400-meter freestyle relay to Japan and the 400-meter freestyle to a South Korean.

China's men also had to share the gold in the men's pommel horse final: Huang Huadong of China, Yoshiaki Hakekeda of Japan and Lee Jang-hyung of South Korea all scored 9.750.

China's Dai Guohong, meanwhile, won the women's 100 breaststroke in a games record time of 1:09.87 and Liu Limin took the 100-meter butterfly gold.

China's men had a bit more difficulty in the pool also, winning the men's 200 breaststroke with a games record, but losing the 400-meter freestyle relay to Japan and the 400-meter freestyle to a South Korean.

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Bill would set waiting period for CGS to enter politics

EVELYN GORDON

THE Knesset Interior Committee will on Tuesday discuss a bill to mandate a cooling-off period before the Chief of General Staff can enter politics after completing his tenure.

The bill was sponsored by Ron Nahman (Likud). According to Nahman, it would demand a two-year cooling-off period for both the CGS and his deputy, Interior Committee Chairman Yehoshua Matza (Likud), however, put the period at three years.

Nahman said the bill, approved in preliminary reading before the summer recess, was aimed at combating the "politicization of the IDF."

"The CGS [Lt.-Gen. Ehud Barak] and his deputy [Amnon Shahak] are involved in a political process [the negotiations with the PLO], and that is unacceptable," Nahman said.

The person most to blame for this, he added, is Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, for "putting them [Barak and Shahak] in an impossible situation."

However, he said, it is possible that Barak, for instance, chose to accept this position rather than resign "because he was thinking of his career," and therefore, it would be better if a CGS knew he could not expect an immediate political career.

The thought of such a career could also influence the way the officers conducted the negotiations, Nahman said, which was another advantage to the law.

Capital teachers threaten work action

BATSHEVA TSUR

JERUSALEM teachers are threatening to disrupt classroom schedules unless they receive an advance by today. The teachers say that they did not receive a sum of NIS 1,750 which is part of the new wage agreement signed with the Treasury on August 31.

The funds were transferred to the Jerusalem Municipality by the Education Ministry on September 29. All the other local councils and municipalities paid the advance with September salaries, the teachers' union said yesterday.

Dinitz lawyer claims collusion between police and witness

EVELYN GORDON

THE defense in the trial of Jewish Agency chairman Simcha Dinitz yesterday accused the second witness of testifying against Dinitz out of fear that she herself would be prosecuted — but Judge Shalom Brener called the argument "far-fetched."

Dinitz is on trial in Jerusalem District Court for fraud and breach of trust, for allegedly charging the agency for \$22,000 worth of personal expenses over a four-year period. The witness, Amira Dotan, was head of the agency's mission in the US during much of the relevant period.

Dinitz's lawyer, Uri Wagman, noted that Dotan had given several statements to the police, with the last two some 15 months after the first. The second two were collected under warning that the evidence could be used against Dotan herself, Wagman said, since in the interim, documents had been found indicating that she also charged personal expenses to the agency.

Dotan later acknowledged this, but stressed that unlike Dinitz, she had always repaid the bills immediately, and often in advance.

"Between the first statement and the second and third I perceive an extreme hardening [in Dotan's stance] towards the chairman," Wagman said, asking what relationship this had to the fact that, despite the existence of enough evidence to question her under caution, she had not been indicted.

Wagman then advanced the theory that, knowing of this evidence, Dotan decided it was to her advantage to give the police what they wanted in her later statements.

"She wanted not to be put on trial," he said. "She wanted good relations with the police."

Wagman also charged that the police, in return, buried the evidence, hiding it in a file where he was unlikely to come across it.

"What you are claiming is a very

serious matter — that the police conspired with [Dotan] to leave these documents aside," Brener responded. "This seems to me to be too far-fetched."

Logically, Brener added, Wagman's argument did not make sense. If Dotan was really afraid of being charged with the same crimes as Dinitz was, that should have encouraged her to find excuses for his actions in her later statements, he said, so the same excuses could apply to her.

Wagman insisted, however, that the police's behavior — putting the Dotan documents in a separate envelope, and waiting 15 months before they questioned her again — was too suspicious to be ignored.

"[My thesis] is at least within the bounds of a reasonable possibility," he said. "[Even if there was no actual deal], at the least, [Dotan] had a subjective expectation of receiving a fa-

vor from the police."

Both prosecutor Shimon Dolan and Dotan herself were furious at Wagman's allegations.

"Even for a lawyer arguing in court, there are rules," Dolan said. "The card doesn't justify the means; there are limits."

Wagman has been viciously attacking all the witnesses, often "without any basis" for his claims, Dolan continued. In one case, for instance, Wagman sent a five-page letter denigrating a certain witness's reliability.

"I've been a lawyer for many years, but I've never seen such a thing: that a lawyer writes a dissertation on the reliability of a witness," he said.

It also says something about Dinitz, Dolan added, if he claims that all his underlings were crooks, since he was "the chief executive, responsible for the entire agency."

"This is a complete lie," Dotan

said of Wagman's charges. "I'm not a friend of the police; I don't know the police."

"I left cash or checks to pay for all my expenditures, and I reported on everything in detail," she said.

The credit-card bills which Wagman submitted to support his claim included expenditures for cosmetics, duty-free goods, hotels and car rentals. The bills had been run up on three different cards — Dotan's, her husband's and an agency card — and some of the bills were from a period between January and May, 1992, when she was not even officially working for the agency. Three of them were in the range of a few hundred dollars; the other two were \$1,210 and \$1,868 respectively.

Wagman also devoted much of yesterday's session to trying to find holes in Dotan's statements to police, but Brener upheld Dotan's statements, saying Wagman had misunderstood them.

Sheetrit fails to show for police questioning

BILL HUTMAN

MK Shimon Sheetrit did not show up yesterday for a police interrogation session into allegations he misused Jewish Agency money while working for the agency, after news reports were broadcast saying police already decided he was guilty.

Sheetrit charged that Police Minister Moshe Shaleh leaked what the Likud MK described as a "totally false story." Shaleh's spokesman said the minister was misquoted by a reporter.

A police spokesman also released a statement saying the investigation was incomplete.

Sheetrit said he was already interrogated "three or four" times into allegations he did not repay the agency for personal expenses he charged

on an agency-issued American Express credit card.

"I used the card for personal expenses, as was allowed, but unlike Sheetrit said the agency back at the end of each month," Sheetrit said.

He said the total sum of his personal expenses during his four years as department head, between 1988 and 1992, were minimal. He added that when he left the office he received a letter saying he owed the agency nothing.

A Justice Ministry spokeswoman declined to comment on the case, saying it was impossible for the State Attorney's Office to have an opinion when it would not even receive the file for another month.

'Davar' staff submits purchase proposal

LIAT COLLINS

MEMBERS of Davar journalists' action committee yesterday submitted their proposals to begin the negotiations to purchase the paper from the Histadrut. The proposals are from the journalists and "investors," not named specifically but known to be Leon Charney and Harold Barry.

At a press conference in Tel Aviv, committee member Shaul Rehavi called on Histadrut Chairman Haim Ramon to provide precise financial figures so these negotiations can begin.

"So far the only thing we have is the Reiner Report on the paper's situation, but without precise figures, including the amount of severance pay owed, it is difficult to negotiate,"

Rehavi said. He noted it is the seller, not the buyer, who must provide the figures.

The proposals are based on principles raised by Ramon, Rehavi said. The committee members propose paying a sum of up to NIS 24 million. In return, the Histadrut would be responsible for all previous financial commitments and possible legal consequences of the police inquiry into financial mismanagement at the paper.

The journalists would not need to come up with the NIS 24 million themselves; the sum comprises the estimated amount of severance pay the workers would be owed by the Histadrut should the paper close.

Ramon rejects proposals to suspend 'political tax'

HISTADRUT Chairman Haim Ramon yesterday rejected a proposal made by workers at Histadrut headquarters that he stop paying the "political tax" — payments to the labor federation's constituent political parties — and instead save the jobs of hundreds of workers he intends to fire.

Ramon's refusal to discuss the workers' proposal will be one of the issues raised at an emergency meeting to be held by the workers on Sunday.

At that meeting, the head-

quarters workers committee will also present its positions regarding the Histadrut's plan to dismiss workers, including its strong objection to the table of severance payments offered by the Histadrut leadership.

According to the table, workers dismissed who have at least 20 years' seniority would receive compensation at the rate of 200 percent.

(tim)

Witness: Deri said an Arab cheated him at Nebi Samwil

FORMER agriculture minister Arik Nehemkin, who testified yesterday at the trial of former interior minister Aryeh Deri, said that Deri told him he had bought land near Nebi Samwil from an Arab who fled to Jordan, leaving him without either the land or proof of purchase.

Nehemkin said that Deri came to him seeking aid in finding alternate land, telling him he had purchased 300 dunams around Nebi Samwil, but had documentation for only 70 dunams.

"He asked me to find other land in exchange," Nehemkin said. "I accepted his story at face value and wanted very much to help."

He said that he suggested those who had purchased the land Deri didn't have title to be given cheap alternate land across the Green Line.

When prosecutor Yehoshua Resnik asked why he hadn't suggested Deri go to court over the matter, Nehemkin replied: "I had no reason to send him to the courts. I didn't think he was guilty of anything. I still believe he was cheated."

(tim)



Demonstrators protest the 'overly harsh' punishment of Carmela Buhbut outside Jerusalem Magistrate's Court yesterday.

Women's activists stage nationwide protest over punishment for wife who killed husband

DAVID RUDGE

SCORES of women's rights activists staged demonstrations outside court buildings in the country's three main cities yesterday to protest the "overly harsh" punishment of Carmela Buhbut.

Buhbut, 40, from Kiryat Shmona was sentenced by the Nazareth District Court earlier this week to seven years' imprisonment for killing her husband, who had regularly abused and beaten her throughout their married life.

The demonstrations in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and Haifa were also aimed

at pressuring the authorities to provide more funds and facilities to tackle the problem.

Demonstrators in Haifa held aloft placards proclaiming: "Prison or the cemetery — is this the fate of beaten women in Israel?"

"We are opposed to violence of any kind, but in the specific case of Carmela it should be seen that her

action was literally a form of self-defense," said Marina Pilatovsky, a member of the "Women for Women" group in Haifa which organized the demonstration outside the city's district court building.

Pilatovsky said Buhbut had been punished for 24 years by her husband and was now facing a further seven years of punishment. "It's simply not fair," she said.

About 50 people, mainly women, took part in the protest in Haifa yesterday. "We also wanted to get across the message about all the women who suffer from violence, and call on the authorities and the public to do more to help. There are only six shelters for battered women throughout the country and sometimes they are full. More are needed," Pilatovsky added.

Sneh, Shohat meet today on Clalit basket of services

JUDY SIEGEL
and JOSE ROSENFELD

HEALTH Minister Ephraim Sneh will discuss Kupat Holim Clalit's recovery program and the national health insurance "basket of services" with Finance Minister Avraham Shohat this morning. Shohat unexpectedly returned yesterday from an International Monetary Fund meeting in Madrid.

Shohat, who was due to fly to the US directly from Spain, will go there early next week.

The government, Histadrut, and Kupat Holim last week agreed on guidelines for the recovery plan and the settling of Kupat Holim's debt. However, before the sides can agree on a detailed recovery program, the government has to set hospitalization costs and the basket of health services which will form the basis for the health fund's financial requirements.

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Was this trip necessary?
Witness: Deri said an Arab cheated him at Nebi Samwil

New chief of staff faces greatest challenges ever

Amnon Shahak will be up against a complicated, unrewarding tenure as the IDF's 15th chief, Alon Pinkas reports



Chief of General Staff-designate, Maj.-Gen. Amnon Shahak, left, will have to deal with issues ranging from terror to updating the national security doctrine. (IDF Spokesman)

On January 1, 1995, Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak will begin a four-year tour of duty as the IDF's 15th chief of general staff.

While the requirements of the job are all too familiar to Shahak (now deputy chief of general staff), he is undertaking what may be the most challenging, problematic, politically explosive, and unrewarding tenure of any chief of general staff before him.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin last night notified Shahak, 50, that he would succeed Lt.-Gen. Ehud Barak. The appointment was expected: Shahak was already considered by Rabin when he was appointed Barak's deputy in 1990. Shahak's promotion was all but assured when the prime minister entrusted him with the sensitive and high-exposure role as chief negotiator with the Palestinians in the talks leading to the Cairo agreement.

Shahak's involvement in diplomacy was criticized as excessive involvement by the IDF in political negotiations and by a senior officer in the peace process. Others questioned whether Shahak, preoccupied with the talks, was performing his tasks as deputy chief of general staff who had been placed in charge of the army's long-term force-structure and implementation of the multi-year plan. But Shahak managed to emerge unscathed and awaited Rabin's official decision.

Rabin, who is required by Basic Law: The Army (1976) to bring his recommendation to the cabinet for approval (which he is expected to do on Sunday), thus positioned the key player in a sweeping rotation in the high echelons of the army. He did not name Shahak's deputy from among three major-generals: OC Southern Command Matan Vilnay (Shahak's preferred candidate); Intelligence Branch chief Uri Saguy (who will probably be appointed head of a security-related agency under the Prime Minister's Office); and OC Northern Command Yitzhak Mordechai, who will either retire or be promoted a rotation with Vilnay in 1996. Successors for those three were not named either, but a decision is expected next week.

Shahak's tenure will probably be the most complicated ever. Other chiefs may have served in problematic times and confronted historic challenges, but Shahak will be responsible for restructuring the IDF and preparing it for the uncertainties of the future battlefield, for the specter of total war including missile attacks, and for dealing with nonconventional weapons. Chiefs who commanded the IDF during war - Ya'acov Dori and Yigael Yadin in 1948, Moshe Dayan in 1956, Rabin in 1967, Haim Bar-Lev during the War of Attrition in 1969-70, and David Elazar in 1973 - oversaw major and far-reaching developments of both systems and doctrine. But none of them had to confront the profound and revolutionary military realities that, in the event of war, Shahak will face.

Shahak will have to manage when the national security doctrine is updated and redefined, as it must be, along the parameters

shaped by the Gulf war and territorial concessions.

He will have to decide on a wide array of acquisition issues including the Arrow anti-ballistic missile. He will have to prepare the army for redeployment in Judea and Samaria and possibly on the Golan. He will have to prepare the home front for Scud missiles that really hit, really hurt, and do real damage. Most importantly, and politically explosive and divisive, Shahak will be in charge of an army that may be ordered to uproot Jewish settlements.

AMNON Lipkin-Shahak was born in 1944 in Tel Aviv. In 1959, he enrolled in the military prep school in Haifa (in a class that included Vilnay and Maj.-Gen. Giora Rom, both marked for new postings in this appointment round), and in 1962 was drafted and joined the paratroopers brigade. He was a company commander (during the 1967 war), a

reconnaissance unit commander (participating in numerous, some still secret, commando raids in Beirut and elsewhere), a battalion commander, a deputy commander of the 35th Paratroopers (during the 1973 Yom Kippur War), and a brigade commander.

Shahak then commanded an armored division, and in 1983 was appointed OC Central Command. In 1986, he was appointed head of Intelligence, a position he once admitted was the most interesting in his career.

Decorated twice for courage (in the 1968 Karame operation and the 1973 "Aviv Neirim" raid on Beirut), Shahak was appointed deputy chief of general staff in 1991, immediately following the Gulf war. In May that year, he commanded "Operation Solomon," the airlift of Ethiopian Jewry.

He is married, for the second time, to Dvora's Tali Lipkin-Shahak, whom he met while she was a military correspondent during the

Lebanon war. He has five children.

Shahak is considered a serious, talented, eloquent, clear-minded, and professional officer by his peers and former commanders. Although not usually described as bright, original, or intellectually oriented like Barak, he has a BA in history from Tel Aviv University and his qualities are defined by his illustrious career and almost unparalleled knowledge of the IDF. Friends and rivals alike describe him as a cynic with a sharp, sarcastic sense of humor, an arrogant man with a condescending attitude. Still, they say, he is never as impatient as Barak reportedly is with those whose opinions he does not appreciate.

"Barak may have a more original and polished military mind, but Shahak is clearly the more general-like," says one general staff officer.

But just as Barak's camelot-like entrance to the second floor of

IDF headquarters in April 1991 was forgotten as soon as his tenure began, so will Shahak's tenure as the agenda overtakes the customary flattering personality profiles in the media.

IF BARAK was to begin a process of restructuring the army and integrating the lessons of the Gulf war during a period often depicted by annual Intelligence assessments as "a window of opportunity providing Israel with an unprecedentedly favorable strategic environment in the region," Shahak will have to translate that reality into a tangible military posture, made more complicated (some will say more promising) by an expanding peace process.

If Barak expressed his reservations concerning the Oslo agreement and in inner circles expounded his belief that the key is an agreement with Syria, Shahak, at least ostensibly, reflects a mirror image. A negotiator with Nabil

Shaath and a framer of the Cairo accord, he may advise his superiors that Syria may have changed its strategic priorities and made peace a desired option, but the implementation of the accord takes precedence. Despite the differences of emphasis, Barak and Shahak share a basic support for the peace process. While Barak is more of a "security hawk," Shahak is thought more dovish.

The peace process will undoubtedly dominate Shahak's agenda. The substance and future of the peace process are inextricably linked to Israel's perceptions of its strategic environs, and the Arabs' perceptions of Israel's intentions. This is where a coherent national security concept and military could enter the equation, and this is essentially where Shahak's tenure begins, and how it will be measured and evaluated.

In the form of a nonprioritized shopping list, Shahak will have the following tasks, each of which seems to loom larger and more challenging than the next:

- Defining and updating national security doctrine, and updating battle doctrine;

- Laying the military and intelligence foundations for, and examining the doctrinal implications of, a possible peace agreement with Syria involving territorial compromise, and possibly relinquishment of the entire Golan Heights;

- Preparing for the future battlefield, characterized by the addition of long-range missiles to Arab arsenals and the steady erosion of Israel's qualitative edge in weapons systems;

- Setting goals for the IDF's force structure, including acquisition of weapons systems, local development of systems (Arrow, Central Project, Merkava Mark IV), local purchases, the size of the standing and reserve armies;

- Preparing the home front for a future war involving accurate missiles hitting city centers and infrastructure;

- Managing the redeployment in Judea and Samaria and further defining relations with the Palestinian security forces;

- Formulating a strategy to deal with the prospects of evacuating Jewish settlements in the territories without rendering the army the culprit in the eyes of those opposed to the policy;

- Defining the IDF's material needs in an era of ever-diminishing financial resources.

The selection of Shahak was a hard choice for Rabin. Vilnay and Saguy are both worthy, competent, talented, and capable candidates, and Shahak's appointment obviously leaves them disappointed. But he was the best man available. There is no doubt about his ability and suitability; the cardinal question is whether he will be able to successfully cope with the immense challenges ahead, and avoid becoming a political chief of general staff - because of the tasks imposed upon him, rather than his inclination.

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Planning Branch struggles to untie redeployment knot

IDF planners say that moving troops out of urban centers will be harder in some cities than in others; Hebron will be the hardest, Alon Pinkas reports

WHILE Israeli and Palestinian negotiators in Cairo set rules and parameters for the elections to the Palestinian Council, teams from the Civil Administration and the IDF's Planning Branch and Central Command are trying to determine how the army will redeploy outside urban centers throughout Judea and Samaria before and during these elections without compromising the security of Israel.

Israeli and Palestinian leaders and negotiators define "redeployment" differently. While Palestinians regard it as essentially a permanent withdrawal from city centers and neighborhoods, Israelis are reluctant to see it as a de-facto ceding of control.

In a Rosh Hashana interview with *The Jerusalem Post*, Prime Minister and Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin suggested that it is by no means a withdrawal, saying that it is only a step that may be taken to facilitate Palestinian elections. In fact, Rabin said, it is not redeployment that we are talking about.

"We are committed to pre-deployment in case of Palestinian elections... That is, to take the IDF out of the center of densely populated areas to facilitate elections... pre-deployment is related only to the elections. We will have to work out... the structure of the interim agreement before we negotiate pre-deployment required for the elections," Rabin said.

Rabin's reservations notwithstanding, the Planning Branch began preparations for the operation as early as September 1993, following the signing of the Oslo Accords. The process was accelerated last May when the Cairo agreement on Gaza and Jericho was signed, and the next phase, elections, loomed on the horizon.

Planning Branch chief and Cairo negotiator Maj.-Gen. Uzi Dayan was asked by Rabin and Chief of General Staff Ehud Barak to plan a partial redeployment of the IDF to the outlying sections of major West Bank cities.

A more detailed guideline will follow.

The Planning Branch was told, contingent on the development and progress of the implementation of the Israeli-PLO accord.

The term "partial," Planning Branch sources explain, means that effective control of access roads to cities and towns will be retained by the IDF, which will station its units around the cities, ready to reenter if necessary.

But for redeployment, or pre-deployment, to be implemented, the form of elections had to be negotiated, and a timetable determined.

The Oslo Accords stipulated that as part of self-rule and its eventual expansion beyond the Gaza Strip and Jericho, the Palestinians would establish a freely elected council to handle civil matters.

The eligibility of Palestinian residents to both vote and get elected, the number of delegates (still in dispute), the council's structure and composition, and the exact, binding legal definitions of its powers were to be decided in subsequent negotiations between the two sides.

Israel's view is that the elections will provide an important confidence-building measure towards peace and self-rule for the Palestinians, and at least partially satisfy their self-determination rights and demands.

Israeli officials also believe the elections will inevitably harness Palestinian doubters of the process to the task of building political institutions, thus eliminating opposition to the PLO. Moreover, the elections will test the Palestinians' ability to construct a democratic society, which in turn will produce an indigenous elected political leadership accountable to the population and committed to the peace process.

The Palestinians perceive the elections as more than a realization of self-determination; they see them as a further step towards ending Israeli occupation.

This explains the Palestinians' emphasis on IDF redeployment and their frequent accusations that Israel is stalling negotiations, ostensibly over election issues, but really because it does not want



Military police stand guard outside the Machpela Cave; in planning redeployment in Hebron, the IDF must also consider access roads used by Kiryat Arba residents and Jewish enclaves in the city center. (Brian Hendler)

to comply fully with the redeployment

This week in Cairo, Israeli negotiator Maj.-Gen. Danny Rothchild and his Palestinian counterpart, Saeb Erekat,

conceded that wide gaps still exist on how to conduct the elections, facilitate voter registration, and determine eligibility to vote and be elected.

While there are increasing signs that

Israel may agree to allow Hamas to participate in the elections in some form or another, Israeli negotiators still insist that a prerequisite would be support of the peace process - which means that

violent opposition to it would disqualify a person from voting or being elected. This has led one senior Planning Branch source to conclude that "redeployment or pre-deployment is still some months away. We do not foresee elections to the Palestinian Council taking place before early 1995."

According to the Oslo agreement, Israel will redeploy its military forces prior to the elections and during election day around the outer edges of these cities to allow the Palestinians to conduct political campaigns, establish an electoral process, and hold elections free of an Israeli presence.

Otherwise, say the Palestinians, people will not vote, feeling that nothing has radically changed if Israeli soldiers patrol the streets. That redeployment, say the Planning Branch sources, is not a simple matter.

"On the one hand, getting out of the Nablus casbah and the back alleys of Jenin is both tempting and logical, and does not diminish our military capabilities to control those areas."

"On the other hand, leaving these cities and redeploying around them also means that we effectively no longer have total control of roads frequently used by settlers driving through," said a Planning Branch officer, Barak concurs.

In his own Rosh Hashana interview with *The Post*, Barak for the first time admitted that redeployment contains its perils.

"There is a danger that we will leave some of the cities that Israelis drive through," he said. "We have to provide security for these Israelis. For some cities... we should provide detours... but there are places where detours are impossible. So this is very complicated in terms of ensuring security."

To maximize rather than compromise security, assuming that a comprehensive pre-deployment would be implemented, army planners proposed classifying cities and towns by the degree of difficulty of redeployment, given each city's features, the number of settlements around it, and how frequently the access roads are used.

In the less problematic category are Nablus, Tulkarm, Jenin and Kabatiya. The problematic ones include Kalkilya, Bethlehem, Ramallah and El-Bireh. All villages around Jerusalem are considered very problematic because many are within the Jerusalem municipal boundaries.

In a category of its own is Hebron, depicted by a Planning Branch source as "extremely problematic, almost intractable."

Every conceivable problem is found in Hebron: access roads used by Kiryat Arba residents; the Machpela Cave; and, most important and problematic, Jewish enclaves in the center of Hebron.

Redeployment cannot be achieved without evacuating these enclaves, something which Rabin, after the Machpela Cave massacre, pledged not to do.

A compromise with the Palestinians on Hebron may be reached, but army planners seem to think that the issue of pre-deployment, or redeployment, is the next major obstacle on the agenda, once the election issue is settled.

Election talks: Ideological principles vs. political technicalities

THE discussion in Cairo concerning Palestinian elections is about implementing the Declaration of Principles across the territories. This could have been done without elections, but they were included to show that both sides are open to democracy.

But democracy is not the issue in these elections. Democratic elections entail certain risks: a party can win or lose. In this case, that cannot be allowed to happen. Israel cannot permit the supporters of the DOP to lose, any more than PLO chairman Yasser Arafat can permit opposition parties to win.

In that sense, holding elections points up how limited Palestinian self-rule is; and words like "freedom," "sovereignty" and "democracy," which are usually linked to the idea of "national elections," have limited meaning.

Chief Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat tried to camouflage this fact this week with complaints about Israeli interference in "the internal arrangements" of Palestinian elections, as though the Palestinians were a sovereign entity. But Israel's right to interfere is the very reason Palestinians and Israelis are discussing elections in Cairo.

Chief Israeli negotiator Danny Rothchild bluntly told *The Jerusalem Post* after the first day: "The central problem is that the entire issue of elections is not only their concern."

It was to be expected that the Palestinians would push for as independent an election as possible as a signpost to real independence. It was expected that Israel would concentrate on the technical issues of who would be entitled to vote, emphasizing Israel's concern about the outcome. This has

Israel can't permit supporters of the DOP to lose, any more than Arafat can let opposition parties win, Jon Immanuel writes

been the style of Israeli-Palestinian negotiations since Madrid.

Inside the conference room, the attitude of the Palestinian team after the first day was described as "more businesslike" by Israeli sources. The attitude of the Israelis was described as "very tough" by a Palestinian negotiator.

The Palestinian style has been less businesslike outside the Sheraton Hotel conference room. Erekat has played the defender of democracy in public declarations to the media concerning Israel's non-democratic interference in Palestinian internal politics and in call-

ing for military redeployment. He has appealed to the Egyptian government to intervene in Israel's affairs on behalf of the right of Jerusalem's residents to participate fully in the elections. However, this issue, like redeployment, has not yet been discussed inside the conference room.

Although the Palestinians want to give the impression of doing everything possible to ensure that the opposition parties have been given every opportunity to participate, it is unlikely they can do so.

Israel's three stated conditions, - no racist propaganda, no call for

Israel's destruction, and no *a priori* demand to cancel the DOP - are not the problem.

The problem will be the nature of the council itself, with its limited legislative powers, subject to Israel's veto. The demand - raised on the first day by Erekat - for a separate 100-member legislature was dropped by the middle of the second day.

The two major political opposition blocs, Hamas and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, would not, they say, participate without the right to legislate independently of Israel.

Palestinian pollsters estimate that Hamas and the PFLP have the combined support of some 30 percent of the Palestinian population, though this could increase in an election if Israel is seen as blocking the opposition.

For that reason, even if Israel is justified by the terms of the DOP, it is unwise to make a commitment to the terms a condition for participation by parties in the election, says Palestinian lawyer Ali Safarini, who participated in this

week's talks and drew up a draft election law.

ROTHCHILD'S THREE conditions, sensible in themselves, are meant only to be a "technical" exposition of the DOP, while for Palestinians they have a larger political meaning.

"Our position is that the elections are for all Palestinians, not only those who support the DOP. But the elections are the product of the DOP. The powers of the council are very limited. So by running, any party, whatever it says, is supporting the DOP," he argues.

Although Israel is not anxious that the elected Palestinian Council have an opposition, "we are not objecting to opposition parties, just as we have the Likud," Rothchild said. In saying so he implied that there was something to the Palestinian demand that elections not be the sole property of those who openly support the DOP.

An opposition group inside the council would certainly give it a more representative aspect, and therefore consolidate the DOP.

Among the opposition, but unfiliated with any party, is Dr. Haidar Abdel-Shafi, the chief Palestinian negotiator before Oslo.

He opposes the DOP, especially concerning Israeli settlements, but in conversation has called it

"an accomplished fact" and has not ruled out sitting on the Palestinian Council, elected or unelected, "if it is run by collective agreement of the ministers." His main concern is that Palestinian Authority chairman Arafat should not continue to exercise dictatorial power inside the council. That is a matter in which Israel is not involved.

The Palestinian People's Party, which supports the DOP but rejects Cairo, has a similar position.

Dr. Mahmoud Zahar, considered the main Hamas spokesman in Gaza, considers it very unlikely that Hamas could participate given the council's limited legislative powers. But then he assumes he is currently with the tide. "The Palestinians and the Israelis are not looking for elections. If they have them I don't believe a majority of Palestinians will support them."

The small Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine says something similar. "We doubt that Palestinians will accept Israeli conditions... but there [are the]... dynamics... [of] the whole process," says spokesman Dr. Mohammed Jadallah.

In contrast, only the ideologically much more stubborn PFLP, the most forceful proponent of democracy with a capital D, declares that it will not run because whether inside or outside PLO councils, it is ignored anyway.

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Sinai formula won't work with Damascus

Syria will be hard pressed to agree to the type of security arrangements Israel needs, Dore Gold writes

IN his October 5 Knesset address, Prime Minister Rabin no longer referred to Israel retaining specific territorial assets on the Golan Heights.

Instead, he now enumerated, for the first time, specific security arrangements intended to safeguard Israel after a withdrawal. But as Israeli-Syrian negotiations begin to flesh out the military details of these arrangements, it is doubtful that Rabin will be able to resist erosion of his position in the security realm: any more than he previously managed to hold out in the territorial dimension.

Until now, the Syrian-Israeli negotiations focused on the depth of Israel's withdrawal and the depth of peace Syria would offer in return. Security arrangements were referred to, only in passing, by Israeli officials.

Undefined, these seemed to be innocuous minor details that would be worked out by teams of experts, once agreement was reached on the larger issues.

The very idea that security arrangements could be considered a substitute for Israeli control of disputed strategic territory was born in the peace treaty with Egypt.

The security problem posed by Egypt's huge standing forces, outnumbering Israel's largely reserve army, was solved by creating three limited-forces zones across the Sinai Peninsula. These kept the bulk of Egypt's armored forces 220 kilometers away, on the other side of the Suez Canal.

Foreign visitors to the Golan Heights are often shown the positions from which Syrian artillery harassed kibbutzim prior to the Six Day War. This often suggests that Golan security arrangements require only the removal of Syrian howitzers.

But Israel's real problem is not artillery, but the huge Syrian tank forces that stretch back from the Golan to Damascus. At the start of the Yom Kippur War, the Syrians had 1,400 tanks in this sector, against 177 tanks on the Israeli side.

Any attempt to devise security arrangements in lieu of Israeli control of the Golan Heights would have to deal with such force asymmetries. Rabin mentioned, in his Knesset speech, the option of instituting mutual, but asymmetrical, demilitarized zones.

If he could throw back the bulk of the Syrian Army 220 kilometers into the interior of Syria, then he might begin to address Israel's security problem in the North. But any deep demilitarization agreement would run into Damascus, which is only some 60 kilometers from the current ceasefire line. No military dictatorship could agree to arms limitations around its capital, especially since the Syrian regime is maintained in power by Republican Guard divisions with T-72 tanks.

The limited applicability of Sinai-size demilitarized zones to the Golan region may have led Rabin to suggest a second sort of security arrangement that has no precedent in Arab-Israeli peace accords: the mutual reduction of the standing armies of both Syria and Israel.

It is not clear why Rabin mentioned "mutual" reductions when, according to foreign sources, Syria's overall standing divisions outnumber those of the IDF by a ratio of 4 to 1 and as much as 12 to 1 in the greater area around the Golan itself (including Lebanon).

Rabin may be hoping he can still make these cuts on an asymmetrical basis by getting the Syrians to slash several divisions, while Israel just cuts a battalion.

Still, Rabin will find that he faces serious obstacles in getting the Syrians to seriously cut back

the size of their standing army. Beyond their concerns for internal security, the Syrians will claim their armed forces are needed for threats from other directions that have nothing to do with Israel — both Turkey and Iraq have huge land armies that are likely to grow in the years ahead.

Israel might suggest that the Syrians put some of their standing divisions on reserve status. But strategic experts from the Arab world claim this would be a non-starter for the Syrians.

It is difficult for an advanced industrial state like Israel to maintain combat-ready reserve units. In a Syrian context, such reserve formations would have only marginal military utility, they argue.

Any security arrangements that seek to limit the military potential of Israel's adversaries must be verifiable; both sides have to be sure that military agreements are being strictly maintained.

In Sinai, a specifically defined area is carefully scrutinized by each party, or by peacekeeping troops, whose task it is to move about the zone and count the number of tanks or artillery deployed.

But in the case of mutual cutbacks in standing armies, verification cannot be limited to a given area; the monitoring of such an agreement would have to extend to all of Syria and Israel. This would be somewhat analogous to the 1990 Conventional Forces Europe (CFE) Treaty, by which NATO and the Warsaw Pact slashed the numbers of tanks and other weapons on each side.

To make these cutbacks credible, the CFE established on-site inspections, by which NATO officers could actually visit military sites throughout the Eastern bloc and vice versa.

Would Syria be willing to open itself entirely to regular inspections by American or other peacekeepers? Damascus is hardly ready for such a development. The former Soviet bloc countries accepted this sort of openness only after their authoritarian regimes were dissolving or had fallen from power.

Rabin's greatest challenge in devising for Israel some form of substitute security, without the Golan Heights, is to come up with a model that not only works on the military drawing board, but is also diplomatically acceptable to the Syrians.

Even in order to regain the Golan Heights, it is hardly worth it for Hafez Assad to place his whole country under the scrutiny of international inspectors.

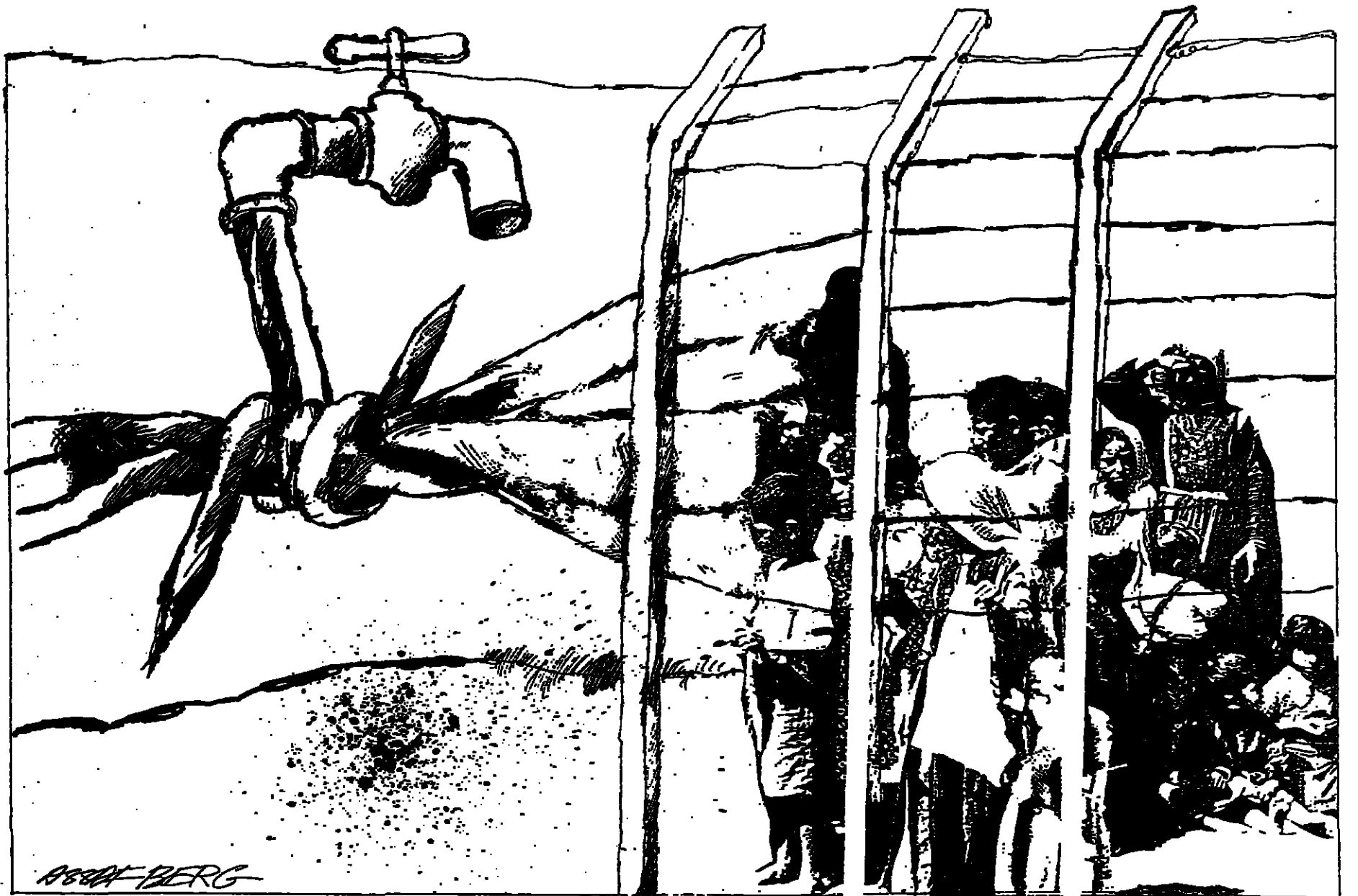
Moreover, Rabin faces another serious problem. Security arrangements are easy to erode in the negotiating process. Once its claim to Sinai was secure, Egypt found it easy to reject many Israeli demands for security arrangements, including Israeli early warning stations and airfields that Israel hoped to keep on Egyptian soil.

With its sovereignty over the Golan acknowledged by the Rabin government, Syria should have little difficulty resisting similar Israeli requests.

A territorial negotiation is black and white; land belongs to one side or the other. Security arrangements involve a wide range of negotiable grays, depending on the extent of any military limitations.

Israeli security interests on the Golan Heights would have been best protected by Israeli sovereignty; it remains to be seen how they will be safeguarded now that the Rabin government is dropping reference to Israel's territorial claims.

The writer is the director of the US Foreign and Defense Policy Project, Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies-Tel Aviv University.



A research project turns enemies into friends

Old soldiers never die — they conduct research with former adversaries. Steve Rodan reports on a Jordanian-Israeli study

FAR from the glare of camera lights and the White House lawn, Aharon Levran and Jordan's Mohammad Shiyab have proved that two former military commanders from enemy countries can quietly talk peace and become friends.

Before the breakthrough on July 25, when the two countries announced they would set up border crossings and explore joint projects, Levran and Shiyab began a study of issues that needed to be resolved before a peace treaty could be signed between Amman and Jerusalem.

For both men, the experience resulted in friendship as well as awareness of the other side's concerns. Levran, a former brigadier general, served as assistant commander of the IDF Intelligence Branch, and was Israel's defense attaché in Tokyo and Seoul. Today, he does research on strategic issues.

Shiyab is a former deputy commander of the Royal Jordanian Air Force and a founding member of the staff of the Jordanian Armed Forces War College. He retired from the military in 1992 and has since been involved in research projects relating to the Middle East.

The Levran-Shiyab study, completed in June and released recently, was sponsored by the Initiative for Peace and Cooperation in the Middle East, a project of the Washington-based Search for Common Ground.

The paper enumerates the unresolved issues that still divide Jordan and Israel and says these will require much time and effort to resolve.

This assessment was apparently correct; there had been media speculation that this week's meetings in Washington between For-

ign Minister Shimon Peres and Jordan's Crown Prince Hassan would result in an immediate peace treaty, but this did not happen.

"There are three main issues," Shiyab says, speaking from his home in Amman. "One of them relates to borders. The other is the water issue. And the last is the bilateral security — to develop a mutual understanding of how best each party can address security needs. Our study was an excellent way to foresee what would happen [in the subsequent Jordan-Israel negotiations]."

IN THE study, both men list their countries' interests and the response of the other. Their disagreements reflect the state of the current negotiations.

Shiyab stressed to Levran that Jordan would not budge on the central questions of land, water, security and refugees. The result is that Levran regards reports of progress made on these issues to be the result of Israeli concessions.

"The Israelis are conceding on two things: on borders and water," Levran says. "On water, the Israelis could agree to some concessions while reaching an understanding on expanding water resources. You can't do that in a border dispute."

But the study raises other concerns. As Levran sees it, Israel wants Jordan to avoid alliances with extremist states, to ban de-

ployment of foreign soldiers on its soil, and to agree not to acquire large amounts of Western weapons.

In the paper, Shiyab responds that Jordan has always insisted that it will never allow its country or airspace to be used as a battleground, and that it has successfully contained terrorist attacks against Israel. Jordan, however, needs to upgrade its military equipment.

The two academics also disagree on arms control. Jordan opposes what Shiyab says is Israel's nuclear arsenal while Levran argues that it would be impractical "and even immoral" to strip Israel of its power, even in a peaceful Middle East.

Levran touches perhaps the rawest nerve of all when he raises the issue of Jordanian-Palestinian relations.

"Israel is concerned about a confederate solution with the Palestinians as this will inevitably end the Hashemite kingdom," he writes. "Eventually, it will create a large armed Palestinian state on both sides of the Jordan River."

Shiyab's response is vague: "Jordan, however, maintains that such arguments are unsound and that it is premature to even discuss this issue."

In the end, Shiyab expects US guarantees to help resolve the water and border disputes. Indeed, during the meeting Monday between Peres, Hassan and President Clinton, the US pledged to

help obtain financing from the World Bank for the construction of two dams along the Yarmuk and Jordan rivers, meant to increase the amount of water supplied to the kingdom by 100 million cubic meters annually.

Israeli officials estimate the cost of this project, defined as a short-term solution to ease the water shortage, at more than \$100 million. A long-term solution, which would seek to resolve the water problems of Syria and Lebanon as well, is estimated to require \$13 billion over the next decade.

Shiyab says that progress in the talks depends on US pledges of aid. "There must be Israeli commitments to delineate the border, and for Jordan to receive our fair share of the Jordan and Yarmuk rivers," he says.

THE IDEA for a Jordanian-Israeli study grew out of a quiet dialogue between Israeli and Arab academics, started in 1991 by the Initiative for Peace and Cooperation in the Middle East. Its first meeting was held in September of that year in Rome, several weeks before the Middle East peace talks were launched in Madrid.

The core group, at one point, included Israelis, Palestinians, Jordanians, Lebanese and even Syrians. The Jordanians have remained faithful to the dialogue, attending all of the meetings and participating in subcommittees,

such as those dealing with conflict resolution and security.

The security subcommittee is regarded as the most important and has held eight meetings. The next one is scheduled for later this month in Oslo.

For their study, Levran and Shiyab wrote separate papers, then worked together to form a draft that identified areas of common ground while delineating differences. Both men say they did not seek any input from their governments; nor is there evidence that the study has had any impact on the negotiations.

Still, Shiyab, as a recently retired senior officer who represents Jordan at many international academic forums, appears closer to his country's leadership than Levran is to his. Though it is not reflected in the study, Levran is highly critical of the policies of the Rabin government and its handling of the talks with Jordan.

"Israel is going about this in a very unintelligent way," he says. "What kind of logic is this, conceding every centimeter of land? We are setting yet a second precedent for returning all disputed lands to the Arabs in the course of a peace settlement, which will affect future negotiations."

Levran and Shiyab say their work on the joint project resulted in mutual respect. Levran calls his Jordanian colleague "first-rate and a gentleman. I understood the concerns of Jordan much better."

"I must admit it was tough," Shiyab says. "But as we got to know each other, I think we developed what we might call a very good friendship. Many people, when you first talk to them, you feel you're not getting anywhere. But after dialogue, you can manage. It just takes goodwill."

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End of boycott inspires misplaced euphoria

The rescinding of the economic boycott against Israel will probably result in only marginal benefits to our economy, Eliyahu Kanovsky argues

ISRAELI leaders were euphoric last week when the Gulf Cooperation Council, comprising Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Qatar and Bahrain, announced the end of the secondary and tertiary economic boycotts of Israel.

The euphoria was inspired not only by the political ramifications of the move, which ends the blacklisting of companies doing business with Israel, but by the expectation that it would soon give a significant boost to the Israeli economy.

Secretary of State Warren Christopher also hailed the move, calling it "a very significant step toward realizing the goal of ending the Arab boycott."

Clearly, the US administration expects that the other 15 Arab states will soon follow the GCC's example, and that the Arab League, which initiated the boycott almost 50 years ago, will officially rescind not only the secondary and tertiary boycotts, but also the primary boycott, which bans trade between Arab countries and Israel.

So much for the happy announcements. What is the reality?

Any measure which reduces and eventually ends Arab economic warfare is of course welcome. But will the formal ending of the Arab boycott give a significant boost to Israel's total exports? And will many potential investors who have been boycotting Israel now knock on our door? I have my doubts.

The impression one gets from the media, and from statements by some Israeli officials, is that the Arab countries, and especially the oil-rich states, are a vast potential market for Israeli goods.

But let's put things into perspective. Total GCC imports in 1992 were about \$67 billion, of which Saudi Arabia accounted for \$30b. Imports by the other Arab countries, far more populous but much poorer, were about \$50b.

Thus, the total imports of these countries, whose population is well over 200 million, were less than \$120b., of which oil-rich Saudi Arabia alone accounted for about one-fourth. By way of comparison, tiny Holland, with a population of 15 million, imported

\$134b. in 1992, more than the whole Arab world combined. Arab imports accounted for a mere 4% of world imports. (All data are from the International Monetary Fund's International Financial Statistics.)

Meanwhile, despite Egypt's commitment in 1979 to ignore the Arab boycott, Israeli exports to that country have been minuscule. There are many tariff and nontariff barriers which can hamper trade, even after the boycott is removed.

It is an open secret that for many years Israeli businessmen, collaborating with Arab businessmen and others, have been doing a thriving under-the-table trade, shipping Israeli goods through third parties to the GCC states, Jordan and Lebanon. A 1984 article in *Forbes* estimated the magnitude of this trade at about \$500 million. Obviously, there are no official figures, but one can safely assume that this trade has grown in the past decade.

The goods shipped have included agricultural technology (including drip irrigation systems), some food products, and other items. If and when the GCC and other Arab countries rescind the primary boycott, one can expect some increased trade. But it is unlikely that total Israeli exports will grow much more rapidly than in the past. The under-the-table trade will be reported in official statistics, but this will not represent a real increase.

SINCE THE mid-1980s, when oil prices dropped very sharply, the Arab economies have been suffering from serious financial and economic problems. Before the oil-price collapse, poorer Arab countries benefited from generous foreign aid from the richer Arab states. Now they have to cope with little or no aid from these countries.

Even more important were the millions of jobs that opened up in the rich oil states in the 1970s and first half of the 1980s. The remittances sent home by expatriate workers stimulated overall prosperity in their home countries.

Now the future does not look bright. Saudi Arabia has accumu-



Israeli hi-tech irrigation tanks in Egypt. How many other Arab countries will follow suit? (Andre Brumm)

lated a large foreign debt, which will probably grow. Foreign contractors have been complaining about lengthy delays in payments from the Saudi government.

If Israeli firms ever get a foothold in this market, they are not likely to receive better treatment. In general, stagnant economies do not make good customers. In fact, they might impose additional barriers on imports. In other words, the potential for Israeli exports is quite limited.

In stark contrast is last week's announcement by the G7 (the US, Canada, UK, Germany, France, Italy and Japan) that the recession in the industrialized countries was over. Because of the recession, total imports of these countries fell by a whopping 6.5% in 1993 (to \$2,527b.), increasing the difficulties faced by those seeking to export to these countries.

Yet despite the recession abroad, total Israeli exports rose 13% in 1993. Prosperity in the industrialized countries should give a major boost to Israel's economy, far more than the opening of closed or semi-closed Arab markets.

MANY BELIEVE that the re-

moval of the secondary and tertiary boycotts, which presumably deterred foreign investment in Israel, will lead to a major increase in such investments. This, too, is doubtful.

Businessmen looking for investment opportunities seek to maximize their return while minimizing their risk. With or without the boycott, Israel has to compete with other countries for these investments. The so-called "industrializing" countries, mainly in the Far East and Latin America, which have high rates of economic growth, liberal economic policies, and often very low labor costs, are often more attractive to foreign investors.

But in some sectors, especially the high-tech field, in which Israel has a comparative advantage, foreign investment has increased in recent years, despite the Arab boycott. For many years, major international hotel chains have been operating in both Israel and the Arab countries, also in defiance of the boycott.

Over 50 Israeli firms are now listed on American stock exchanges, and the buyers of their stock are not engaged in philanthropy. Foreign investment in Israel is still modest, but it is in-

creasing, in no small measure due to the economic liberalization program which the government initiated in the mid-1980s.

WHAT IS largely ignored is the impact the boycott has had on the Arab economies. In an article last year in *Middle East Insight*, Marwan Iskandar, an adviser to the Lebanese prime minister, noted: "Apart from questionable political propaganda gains, the boycott hurt Arab economic development."

He also confirmed that, in a number of Arab countries, "the boycott regulations were ignored and derided," and that "oil-rich Arab countries in the Gulf [GCC] endorsed the boycott... without much enthusiasm."

Thus, the euphoria here about the ending of the boycott may be misplaced. Moreover, Israel should not have to pay a political price for the abolition of the boycott, which stems from the Arab states' pursuit of their own interests and whose benefits to Israel are marginal.

The writer is an economist and senior research associate at the Begin-Sadat (BESA) Center for Strategic Studies at Bar-Ilan University.

Do's and don'ts in dispatching police

Moshe Zak examines the history and the issues involved in sending police abroad

THE SEYCHELLES recently asked for Israeli police officers to train its national police force. No legal problem has arisen in dispatching them for this purpose. Nor has anyone complained about retired police commander Gabi Amir or serving Commander Haim Albalade's training the Costa Rican police this year, or commander Yigal Marcus being asked by the Mexican police for consultations.

In all these cases, Israeli police officers were specifically invited to advise and train, wearing civilian clothes, as occurred in the Sixties when commander Yehuda Prag served as adviser to the Ethiopian chief of police and lieutenant-commander Shmuel Eytan headed a delegation which organized the Ethiopian border police.

The situation is different regarding the dispatch of uniformed police to Haiti, since this involves incorporating them as a component in an international police force.

Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair was the first to raise the question of the legality of dispatching police officers to serve beyond the country's borders. After President Clinton's telephoned request, Prime Minister Rabin consulted Ben-Yair, who said legislation would be needed to change the Police Ordinance.

No one involved questioned the need to respond affirmatively to the president, and it was proposed that the unit be composed of retired officers who would train Haiti's local police. But the decision in Jerusalem was not compatible with Washington's request: there, a plan had been worked out for various national police units to be incorporated in an international grouping under the American expeditionary force commander, authorized to assign them to missions according to the perceived need.

Nor did it prove feasible to recruit 30 retired officers, and so serving officers who volunteered were included; but these are bound by the Police Ordinance, and the issue went to the High Court of Justice.

LAST FEBRUARY, Israel was asked by the UN Secretariat to send an IDF liaison unit for the UN force in Angola to supervise elections; Jerusalem was not enthusiastic and suggested sending, instead, a field hospital of the Medical Corps.

Israel has been careful not to include her soldiers in a UN force. Jordan sent soldiers to Bosnia and Cambodia and has no difficulty now in sending policemen to Haiti. All Israel could do was to provide a single civilian observer, Albert Ben-Abu, for the UN peacekeeping force in Bosnia.

Jerusalem has not hesitated to send army units for military and police training in Third World countries; but it has always declined to send combat units anywhere, even in a UN framework.

Bill Clinton is not the first American president to ask for Israeli support in a UN military operation headed by the US. Truman asked for a battalion in the US-led UN army in Korea in 1950 and, like Clinton, regarded Israeli participation as morally important and likely to influence American public opinion favorably.

Even during the Vietnam war, not under UN auspices—Lyndon Johnson asked for indirect Israeli support through Nahal-type in-

structors to create the impression of Israeli military involvement in South Vietnam. This was meant to assist the president in his controversy with the American Jewish community, which largely opposed the Vietnam war.

In the 1991 Gulf war, Israel asked George Bush to let it join the coalition against Saddam Hussein's aggression; but Bush declined, preferring to include Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Syria in the coalition set up by the UN Security Council.

IN THE case of Korea, prime minister Ben-Gurion urged acceptance of Truman's request at a cabinet meeting on July 2, 1950, at the home of president Chaim Weizmann. His view was rejected and foreign minister Sharet's alternative proposal to send medical aid was adopted.

Ben-Gurion thought that accepting the American request could be a breakthrough in getting American military aid for the IDF to expand to 200,000 troops, and assistance in absorbing a million immigrants. No other minister agreed, and the chief of staff, Yigael Yadin, also opposed sending soldiers. The cabinet likewise opposed recruiting volunteers; Sharet said a volunteer unit "could have the character of mercenaries."

Ultimately, medical aid was dispatched, with no Israeli insignia displayed. Washington did not want to publicize Israel's refusal, so warmly praised the medical aid, limited though it was, as highly important. Secretary of state Dean Acheson wrote Sharet, expressing appreciation of this contribution by "one of the free countries fighting for freedom."

But then ambassador Abba Eban opposed even this medical assistance, saying he "greatly doubted whether this first appearance by Israel in Asia should be precisely a military one, an appearance not acceptable to the continent's leaders." Eventually, he reported from Washington that the Americans were giving him no rest in their persistent demand for an Israeli battalion in Korea.

In the IDF, commandant Goren, asked the commander of the 52nd Battalion, Yosef Goren, if he would be ready to head an Israeli battalion in Korea. Goren said he'd go if ordered. There were protest rallies addressed by retired Hagan commander Yitzhak Sadeh, who favored North Korea ("striving to unify the homeland"), while the ambassador to Poland, Yisrael Barzilai, resigned in protest at Israel's support for South Korea.

In the end, Israel went through with the medical aid to South Korea, but the public debate helped modify Israeli foreign policy which, until the Korean war, had followed the "nonintervention" line in international conflicts. It moved closer to Ben-Gurion's objective of depending on the US, in order to strengthen the IDF and absorb mass immigration.

Even before the American approach in the Korean war, Ben-Gurion had rejected Jordanian King Abdullah's 1949 plea to lend him an Israeli Air Force squadron with its pilots to attack Damascus.

Unlike Abdullah, however, Truman and Clinton did not ask for essential, substantive military aid from Israel in Korea or Haiti, but primarily for moral assistance vis-a-vis American public opinion.

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CAPITAL TALK

TEDDY KOLLEK with AMOS KOLLEK

ONE of the sadder manifestations of the rapidly changing times we live in is the utter decline of faith in government in general and every one of its institutions.

It's one thing for the average citizen to be sophisticated, to demand proper answers from his leaders on the most important issues, and to be knowledgeable and alert. That is as it should be.

But when one almost automatically distrusts every government decision, every policy, every political statement, it can only lead to anarchy and disintegration. We must watch out for that.

A government must be able to govern, and in a democracy it must do so with the support of its constituency.

That is why we go to the polling booth every four years; to give somebody a mandate to lead, to make decisions and carry them out. If we don't like what they do we can replace them four years later. But we must give them a chance.

Lately, this does not always happen. We can see this with President Clinton in the US. He may or may not turn out to be a good president, but the public's constant questioning of his motives, his truthfulness, and every detail of his personal life is very disheartening and getting more critical.

Let's stop and think for a moment. Would John Kennedy have stood such scrutiny? Or Franklin Roosevelt? Or even George Bush? In order to govern, a leader must enjoy some distance. Distance begets respect. TV has made us too much at home with every public figure. In some sense, it has made us more familiar with our leaders than with our neighbors, and familiarity breeds contempt.

More perturbing, at least from my point of view, is the situation here. We are living in historic times, with unique historic opportunities and pitfalls.

It's not only the government that has to rise to the occasion, it is also the people.

OUR LEADERS are trying to make peace with our enemies of the past 47 years and more. To describe it as a complicated, vital task would be a great understatement. But it is happening before our eyes.

These are the same people who have led this country in battle and fought in all its wars. They have earned our respect and they deserve to get it. The constant outcry of "liars" and "charlatans" from the public is devastating. It shows a

lack of responsibility. We are not living in some banana republic in South America. This is a government by the people, of the people, and for the people.

The recent attacks on the secret service here is a case in point. We have always been proud of our intelligence. It has a wonderful reputation all over the world. It has enabled us to exist in relative security under the harshest of conditions.

Any such organization must be able to interrogate. Its members are not Boy Scouts. They cannot be under public scrutiny for every detail. We must give them credit that they are doing their best, not their worst. We must support them.

Unfortunately, we cannot yet afford the luxury of letting down our guard. Even if we achieve peace, and this certainly won't happen overnight, Islamic fundamentalism and our own extremism will remain threats for a long time to come, posing a constant danger of terrorism and war. So we must remain strong and alert. Instead, some of us begin to grow skeptical and cynical, without regard for any authority.

Why is all this happening now? I suspect that it's a combination of things.

Generally, the world has become much less clear. So many things have happened in such a short time: the collapse of the Soviet Union, the tremendous shifts in population all over the world, the media explosion.

Every piece of news, relevant or not, is brought into every home on the TV screen. Everything is seen up close, in all its ugly detail. Every political scandal is made into a movie or a miniseries. Nothing is sacred or revered. Maybe it's inevitable, but it's a pity, and for us a danger.

But it's more than that. There is a deterioration in education on all levels. One can get a sad view of this every day in the debates in the Knesset. Just watch the people; or worse, listen to them. It's gutter behavior and gutter language in their lowest form. And they are reported in detail in the papers and on TV. Under those conditions, it is hard to maintain respect.

If we don't put faith in government, if we don't give our leaders some leeway to do things, if we don't allow them some privacy and respect, soon no capable person will go into public life. We may then get benign, mediocre leaders who look good on TV and have nothing to hide — but they will also have very little to offer, aside from a photographic smile, a bland personality, and a full head of hair.

Polls: A political weapon

EYE ON THE MEDIA

DAVID BAR-ILLAN

THAT the media often commission opinion polls is legitimate enough. What the public thinks of the issues of the day is news, and it sells newspapers.

Such polls become hot items particularly before elections, when they can determine the fate of candidates. In the US in particular, a candidate's poor showing dries up contributions and reduces media interest, thus dooming the candidate's chances.

Like so many other facets of the election process, this is not always fair. Polls can be wrong and misleading. In Israel, polls have never predicted elections accurately. But the more serious problem is that the respondents' answers can often be determined by the questions.

And when a tendentious news medium wishes to make a point through polls, the procedure can only be described as the manufacturing, rather than the reporting, of news.

One of the most offensive culprits in this area has been Israel Radio. In its effort to show that public support for the "peace process" is larger than indicated in the general polls — which measure party preferences and the vote for prime minister — the radio has commissioned polls which are designed to mislead.

Not that the radio is the first to manipulate poll questions. In pre-Oslo Agreement days, polls would routinely ask respondents about their willingness to consider "territorial compromise" in Judea, Samaria and Gaza.

For over a quarter of a century now, the phrase has been the slogan of the Labor Party. Its meaning to Israelis is clear and unequivocal: the partitioning of the administered territories, according to either the Allon plan or similar redvisions of the areas.

Not surprisingly, the number who favored some such compromise was large, and it included Likud and other "right-wing" voters. Few Israelis wanted to keep the Gaza District, or the Arab towns of Judea and Samaria. Moreover, the word "compromise" connotes realism and reasonableness.

After all, no peace can be achieved without some compromise.

But in fact, no such compromise was available. As events have proved, no Arab ruler, and certainly not the PLO, would even consider territorial compromise. It was either an Israeli retreat to the 1949 lines or nothing.

But had the question been formulated to reflect this realistic choice — something like, "Do you favor a withdrawal to the 1949 armistice lines and the establishment of a PLO (or Hamas) state in the territories?" — the answer would have been a decisive "no" by 85 percent of the population, as other polls have indicated.

Now it is the turn of the Golan, and the pollsters are at it again, using the same technique. Israel Radio last week published a poll, conducted with Haifa University, whose purpose is obviously to show that the huge demonstration of solidarity with the Golan over the Succot holiday did not reflect true voter sentiments.

Its first question was, "Are you ready for a compromise on the Golan in return for full peace?" This time, even the word "territory" is missing.

To reject any kind of compromise would appear uncivilized even to the most hawkish. If anything, it's surprising that only 52% of the general public (and only 32% of Likud voters) favored such a compromise.

Now that respondents have established that they are reasonable, the word territory is introduced: "Is peace with Syria feasible without any concession on territory?" A majority of the general public (65%) and half of the Likud voters answered in the negative. But here, too, the question is misleading, for the chances of Assad agreeing to a peace treaty without any Israeli withdrawal are no different from his agreeing to a partial Israeli withdrawal.

The only realistic question should have been, "Would you accept peace with Syria if it meant total Israeli withdrawal from the Golan?" But the poll avoids this exercise in realism, preferring to approach it circuitously.

The next question is, "After how many years of normalization would you consider full withdrawal from the Golan?"

Here the respondent is asked to consider withdrawal only following a period of normalization. Again, the options are totally unrealistic, for they present the possibility of six to 10 years, and 11 to 15 years of normalization before withdrawal. To the realistic possibility of either immediate withdrawal or withdrawal within one to five years, only 26% of the general public answered in the affirmative.

Another 13% would agree to total withdrawal after six to 10 years of normalization, and 8% only after 11 to 15 years. A full 40% said they would never withdraw from the Golan, no matter how long normalization prevailed, and 13% were undecided. (Among Likud voters only 18% would withdraw after one to five years of normalization.)

Finally, Likud voters were asked if they thought their party should adopt a "territorial compromise" plank on the Golan. There is no

"Allon plan" for the Golan, nor any other defined "compromise." The word can mean nothing more than cosmetic border adjustments, while retaining all the strategic areas and all the settlements.

Clearly, too, no such compromise is feasible. The question did not even suggest that this "compromise" would mean the removal of the settlements.

To this, 46% of Likud voters answered in the affirmative and 42% said no. Here a question was added with the clear intention of embarrassing the party leadership: "Do you believe the Likud has a clear position on the Golan?" On this, 52% of Likud voters thought that it didn't; 38% thought it did. One wonders what the numbers would be if Labor Party members were asked the same question about their government's position. Or Meretz members about the party's position on Shas.

Had polls been merely gimmicks with which the media attract attention, they would be harmless. But many leading politicians, including both Rabin and Netanyahu, are so addicted to polls that they shape their public utterances and policies according to poll results. Moreover, the psychological effect of acceptability by a majority is immense.

Voters tend to accept what has hitherto been unacceptable if they believe a majority, or even a substantial minority, has already done so.

To view polls merely as an exercise in public pulse-taking is disingenuous. They are weapons in the political battlefield. That the media use them for tendentious purposes is yet another symptom of media politicization.

MORE ON THE GOLAN

HUNGER STRIKE

The very short list of papers which published reports about the Golan hunger strike, discussed in last week's column, should have included *The Boston Globe*. The omission is particularly regrettable, since correspondent Ethan Bronner's story was exceptionally fair and comprehensive.

Unfortunately, neither the *Globe* nor most other major papers found space for the strike's denouement and the implications for the peace process of the mini-rebellion in the Labor Party staged by the Kahalani group. The exceptions were *The Guardian*, *The Daily Telegraph*, *The Financial Times* and *The Observer* in Britain, and *The Boston Herald*, *The Baltimore Sun*, *The Chicago Tribune* and *The Ottawa Citizen* in North America. None of the television and radio networks had anything at all about the strike and its ramifications. For the vast majority of the American and British media, the whole three-week-long story was a non-event.

Whose statute of limitations?

VIEW FROM NOV

MOSHE KOHN

READERS, it seems, are generally lazy about letting you know how they feel about your pontifications. Most of the few who write do so mainly to expose your errors or attack your opinion without giving a reasoned argument.

Someone once suggested to me that a sure way of getting readers' response is planning errors.

But I find that I am able to commit egregious mistakes without such devious premeditation.

On August 26 I credited the play *Antigone* to Aeschylus when, as Dr. Yohanan Cohen-Yashar of Jerusalem wrote me, "every high-school pupil knows" that the author is Sophocles. Even I knew it. I also had the text before me at the time.

Nevertheless, even though I re-read that column three times before sending it to be processed, I didn't catch my error.

That was probably because in those pre-Rosh Hashana days, I was also thinking of Sophocles's version of the Prometheus myth, and the difference between that and the Jewish myth of how Man learned the uses of fire.

In the Greek myth (of which Aeschylus also gives us a version), Prometheus steals fire from the gods and brings it to Man, for which the gods subject him to hideous punishment.

In the Jewish myth, God Himself teaches Adam how to produce fire. (*Pessahim* 54a; *Yerushalmi Berachot* 8:6; *Yerushalmi Rabba* 11:2 and 12:6; *Midrash Tehillim* 92:4).

SEVERAL READERS let me know about my September 9 error, when I called the editor of *The Jewish Week* of New York, Gary Rosenblatt, Jonathan.

Again the cause was Rosh Hashana, combined with Baltimore. Until a year ago, Gary Rosenblatt was editor of *The Baltimore Jewish Times*. Jonathan Rosenblatt, no relation (to the best of my knowledge), is rabbi of the Riverdale (N.Y.) Jewish Center and grandson of the late Rabbi Prof. Samuel Rosenblatt of Baltimore.

Prof. Rosenblatt's father was the great Cantor Josef "Yossele" Rosenblatt.

During my New York early boyhood I had heard his live, magnificent renditions of the Jewish liturgy, including some of his own exquisite compositions; I still relish the recordings.

So even though I had Gary Rosenblatt's article before me at the time, I had Yossele Rosenblatt on my mind, and even in three re-readings I failed to realize that I

had named his great-grandson editor of the *Jewish Week*.

PUBLIC-RELATIONS executive Barton Halpern of Tel Aviv considers "unconscionable" an equation I made between the German Protestant clergyman Martin Niemöller's statement about the silence of Germans in the face of Nazi evil and a somewhat similar statement concerning our unilateral-surrender process by Tel Aviv/Jerusalem publisher and communal activist Murray Greenfield.

Greenfield formulated this cautionary note about Israel's territorial offerings:

"First they asked for Gaza/Jericho. I didn't live there, so I agreed. Then they asked for Judea/Samaria. I didn't live there, so I didn't care. Then they demanded the Golan. That was far away, so I didn't speak up. Now they want Jerusalem..."

I considered this worth disseminating and thought it would be better understood and carry more force juxtaposed with Niemöller's statement: "In Germany they came first for the Communists, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Communist. Then they came for the Jews, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Jew..." And so on through the trade-unionists and Catholics, until: "...Then they came for me, and by that time no one was left to speak up for me."

Halpern considers it "unconscionable" to imply that (Niemöller's) historic plea against persecution and racism has anything to do with giving up portions of occupied areas to a majority population which under Israeli military rule had no democratic rights.

I consider it Zionist living in "Palestine" to regard any areas of Eretz Yisrael where Jews govern and live as "occupied areas." It is also unconscionable for such a Jew, or any fair-minded person, to treat our situation as if we brought it about by an act of expansionist aggression and were perpetuating it out of sheer sadism, and not that the Arabs brought it on themselves in their series of failed attempts to destroy us, and have been perpetuating it as a tool against us.

Yes, I think Greenfield's warning is well taken and well phrased.

ANOTHER unconscionable phenomenon is Shulamit Aloni's

choosing, and being chosen, to sit in the cabinet of the Jewish/Zionist state, and as communications minister, despite her open antipathy to the messages Jewish/Zionist history and tradition seek to transmit.

Read a recent bit of her punditry, intoned at a meeting with her PLO counterpart, Yasser Arafat (Rabbi *Maariv*, August 19):

"Instead of the Israelis and Palestinians holding meetings at which they look each other over to ascertain that they have no horns, let them study together the history of this country since the days of the Canaanites, Egyptians, Mamelukes, Crusaders, Palestinians, etc. Then they'll learn that in the 2,000 years that we weren't here, many others were here, and the statute of limitations has expired."

Mrs. Aloni, who are those "we" who weren't here for 2,000 years?

Let's see now... But wait: you've left out several groups that were here: Babylonians, Assyrians, Hellenes, Romans, Scythians, Parthians, Byzantines, Tatars, Seljuks, Ottomans, Britons.

Are they all embraced by your "etc."?

And what of the Arabs? Did you mean to cover them by the designation "Palestinians" rather than by their original designation, "Arabs"?

But "Palestinian" (based on a relatively late Roman coinage) is really ambiguous. The history books and the newspapers of that period show that during World War II, "the Palestinians" were the Eretz Yisrael Jews serving in the British fighting forces while the Arabs were mainly helping or at least cheering Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy.

Let's check again.

Oh, yes, I nearly forgot: the Jews. The Jews were here, too. Strange, Madame Communications Minister Aloni, that you didn't mention us by name as a group that has been here since before those 2,000 years of yours began, since they ended, and — come to think of it — even during those 2,000 years.

Yes, there were Jews here even during those 2,000 years. Do you consider us nothing more than an "etc." in Eretz Yisrael?

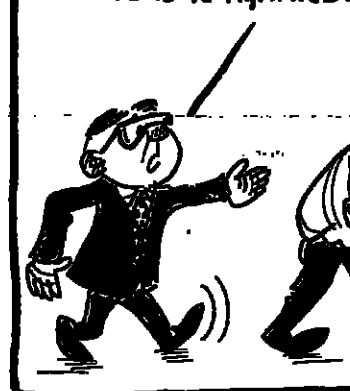
Why do you sit at the government table of the Jewish/Zionist state?

Why do you sit on "stolen Arab lands" after the expiration of the statute of limitations?

It seems, rather, that you have used up your statute of limitations.

SRULIK

THE PUBLIC IS AGITATED!



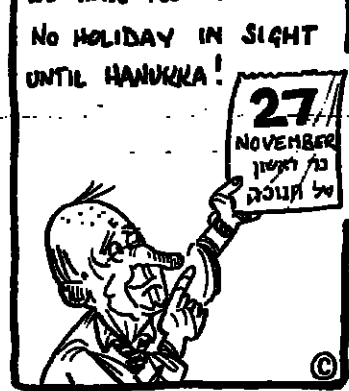
WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?!



IT'LL NOT BE EASY TO PERSUADE THEM TO GIVE UP THE SHORES OF THE KINNERET...



WE HAVE PLENTY OF TIME! NO HOLIDAY IN SIGHT UNTIL HANUKKA!



Looking back at the intellectually naked

SHABBAT SHALOM

SHLOMO RISKIN

"And the sons of Noah that went out of the ark were Shem and Ham and Japheth. And Ham is the father of Canaan. These three are the sons of Noah, and from them was the whole earth overspread. And Noah began to be a husbandman, and he planted a vineyard." (Gen. 6:22)

NOAH, the discoverer of the vine, is not as famous as Noah the shipbuilder. But this week's portion of Noah provides a strange ending to the life of a major biblical personality who is, in effect, a second Adam.

Initially, Noah is described as righteous and wholehearted — a *tzadik* who saves humanity by resisting the taunts of those around him as he goes about building an ark on dry land. And then, upon leaving the ark, we read that the same Noah plants a vineyard, drinks wine, gets drunk, and then stretches out uncovered, his nakedness revealed.

Over the course of the portion, the Torah seems to forgive Noah — for how could he be have been expected to know the evil ramifications of the fruit of the vine? — but does blame Ham, who upon seeing his inebriated, naked father, runs to tell his brothers.

The Midrash goes a step further, suggesting he either committed sodomy on his father or castigated him, depending on the talmudic interpretation we use.

In contrast to Ham, the other brothers, with Shem leading Japheth, cover their father with a garment. "...and they saw not their father's nakedness." (Gen. 9:23)

When Noah wakes from his wine to discover what has befallen him, his impulse is to curse the son

who committed the act and bless the two who covered his nudity.

But what's baffling about this event is that instead of cursing Ham, he curses Ham's son, Canaan: "And he [Noah] said: 'Blessed be the Lord God of Shem, and Canaan shall be his servant.'" (Gen. 9:26)

In fact, Canaan appears prominently in the entire story, and each time Ham's name is mentioned it comes with a reference to Canaan. "And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father..." (9:22) We never read of Shem, the father of X, or of Japheth the father of Y.

Right from the start of the sequence, when the text gives us the names of the three sons who left the Ark with Noah — Shem, Ham and Japheth — the Torah adds, almost as a reminder: "...Ham is the father of Canaan."

In order to explain the strange prominence of Canaan, Rashi says that some sages are of the opinion that Noah's nakedness was initially witnessed by Canaan, who then reported it to his father, Ham. Introducing Canaan at the beginning of the chain of events places direct responsibility on his shoulders, clarifying to a large extent why Canaan is the one who ultimately is cursed.

There may be a more far-reaching interpretation — one which attempts to respond to an agonizing problem in the Torah and throughout Jewish history.

The land that God commands Abraham and his descendants to

not tolerate unethical and immoral people on its soil. Whoever sins is sent into exile. Only when we return — and we can return only in accordance with the Divine will — does the land regain its sanctity.

It thus goes without saying that our ability to remain on Israeli soil — and not to be exiled — depends upon our fealty to traditional Jewish teaching, the continuity of our ethical, moral and ritual conduct which links us to our glorious past.

With this in mind, we understand that although Canaan once lived here, the depravity of these descendants of Noah made them unworthy of the land. Canaan's conspicuous presence in the section describing Noah's drunkenness is a hint that he will lose the land because of immoral conduct.

Long before the Israelites fight their wars against Canaan, the reason for Canaan's defeat is already alluded to. Ham's act may be despicable, but Canaan's tattling tongue cuts him out of history.

We often find that a new generation looks back at the old and finds an intellectual or even moral nakedness. It may be a Russian revolutionary looking at the ignorance of his grandfather the serf, or an Israeli politician who scoffs at the traditions of his European or Yemenite grandfather, mistakenly viewing our rich traditional heritage as being nakedly devoid of modern significance or meaning.

On the contrary, only those Jews who return to Israel because it was the land of their forebears, yearned for by their grandparents, can re-endow the land of Israel with its original sanctity.

What is uniquely characteristic of the land of Israel is that it does

Shabbat Shalom

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The bottom-up approach is the road to riches

When Mark Mobius investigates investment opportunities, it's the little things that are most important. Neil Cohen reports

A senior manager at one of the big banks receives a fax. Can he please arrange landing facilities for a private plane at Ben-Gurion Airport? Mark Mobius is coming to town. Not having taken on the Bank of England and won, Mobius is not as well known as George Soros. But he manages slightly more money than Soros, and he is to emerging markets what Soros is to hedge funds.

The funds Mobius and his group manage have been consistently stellar performers over the short and long haul - the Templeton emerging markets fund has risen by an average of 60% a year over the last three years. Altogether, the funds the group manages total around \$5.8 billion, spread across individual country funds, area funds and global funds. In 1987 they were managing just \$100 million.

Mobius, 57, practically lives in his plane and seems to be as close to a workaholic as they come. He was born in the US of German parents, has never married, and has no children. He is based in Singapore and Hong Kong, but spends 10 months each year traveling the globe in search of investment opportunities to enrich armchair investors in the industrialized world.

Mobius jetted in last month for a two-day visit to further investigate the country on his way to Switzerland for a roadshow to set up two new funds. Last week he started off in his Hong Kong office, went to a meeting in Oman that was switched to Cyprus, then flew on to Spain.

His travels this year have also taken him to a pasta flour mill in Bouswana (it supplies South African bakers), to fruit plantations the fund owns in Swaziland, and to Latin America.

While Mobius's emerging markets group at Templeton, one of the world's leading money management outfits, includes 24 analysts, most of whom are based in the Far East, Mobius is very detail oriented. He travels to dig for these details and to see for himself. He enjoys quoting Sir Arthur Conan Doyle: "It has long been an axiom of mine that the little things are definitely the most important."

Mobius's investment approach follows the same train. Like his firm's founder, the legendary Sir John Templeton, who was investing heavily in Japan in the 1960s when it was an emerging market, Mobius favors what is known as a "bottom-up approach."

He is less concerned about economies and sectors than with the merits of individual companies. He will willingly invest in a gem hidden in even the most unfashionable economy. This approach is very systematic. Before Mobius arrives in a new country his analysts pore over lists of companies to identify those with low ratings and big potential. Then he schedules meetings with a few selected companies.

His knowledge and opinions on the valuations and relative merits of holding companies and individual industrial concerns in Israel were startlingly well informed.

One of Mobius's complaints during his visit was the paucity of information available to would-be investors. With the exception of the companies traded on Wall Street, in which he has been investing since 1987, few companies produce annual reports or other shareholder information in English. Many companies seem unaware of the need for shareholder communication. He is chary of relying on the banks for information, given their dominant role in



Mark Mobius virtually lives in a plane and is as close to a workaholic as they come. (Israel Net)

the capital markets and the potential conflicts of interest that could result.

Mobius was also perturbed by the prospect of his funds being hit by the planned tax on stock-market gains. As the double taxation treaty with the US has now been ratified, it seems that these fears have been allayed.

Mobius's other concern was the lack of liquidity in the local market, some of which he ascribed to the trading methods used on the TASE. He urged the wider use of computerization and suggested the adoption of one big computerized trading system, which he felt

would increase volume and liquidity. The part-computerized, part-floor system currently in operation leaves something to be desired.

Mobius is obviously the kind of investor Israel needs. He is a largely passive long-term holder of stocks.

"We are not interested in the short-term movements of our companies," he said. But as a passive, long-term holder, the one thing that is crucial to him is liquidity.

"Please give us liquidity - as a minority investor that is our only vote," he said.

Mobius is also keen to see the government accelerating its privatization program. He feels it, too, should pay limited attention to short-term market fluctuations. Privatization will add liquidity to the market; investors worldwide are interested both in privatization and in emerging markets. They may not be interested forever.

Mobius feels that the main obstacle to a Templeton Israel fund is the issue of taxing foreign investors on their gains. Now that that problem seems to be resolving itself, Israel may be seeing a lot more of him.

Turning used goods into new profits

Two men are making millions in the US reselling everything from children's clothes to compact discs, Patricia Commins reports

WHEN US entrepreneur K. Jeffrey Dahlberg was looking into investing in a second-hand sporting goods store a few years ago, he admits he was skeptical about how many customers it could draw.

"Then I went out there one Saturday and at about 10 minutes to 10, before the store opened, there were about 10 people waiting outside," Dahlberg recalled. "We started examining the business seriously."

Dahlberg and his partner, Ronald Olson, were sold on the concept, eventually turning it into a nearly 500-unit national franchise chain known as Play It Again Sports. Later, he expanded the used-goods market to other areas.

Today, Dahlberg, chairman, and Olson, president, head Grow Biz International Inc., a publicly traded company based here that operates a total of five specialty retail concepts. They sell used goods, from children's clothing to compact discs.

The backbone of the business, Dahlberg said, is "ultra high value retailing," a fancy way of referring to a retailing concept aimed at penny-pinching 1990s consumers.

"That's the name we've given it," he said. "We buy their used [merchandise] and sell them something that's also used."

For example, Play It Again Sports offers mostly used goods like tennis rackets, roller skates and skis for wannabe adult athletes whose goals outpace their budgets and children who can out-grow a \$100 pair of skates before the season ends.

"Hockey is very big up here," Dahlberg said. "It's a very expensive sport for parents. As kids grow, every year they need new equipment."

This year Play It Again Sports is expecting about \$200 million in sales from all stores, making it the second-largest sports retailers in the country, measured by sales, behind Kmart Corp.'s The Sports Authority, Dahlberg said.

Grow Biz's other concepts include Once Upon A Child, which deals in used and new clothing and merchandise for children; Com-

puter Renaissance, selling used computer equipment for individuals and small businesses; Disc-Go-Round, buying and selling used compact discs, and Music-Go-Round, dealing in used musical instruments.

Brent Rystrom, an analyst with Piper Jaffray who has a strong buy recommendation for Grow Biz's stock, sees big growth for the small company, which went public about a year ago. First sold at \$10 a share, it now trades at over \$14.

Rystrom estimates Grow Biz's sales could climb to about \$78 million in 1994, up 50.4 percent from 1993, and strong growth in the next year as well.

Dahlberg, sporting a necktie decorated with rows and rows of rabbits, envisions Grow Biz's retail concepts multiplying across the country like the proverbial bunnies.

"We feel that each one of these concepts would have a minimum of 1,000 units," he said.

The plan, he added, is to open 100 to 150 stores a year, virtually all through franchises.

The first concept to surpass the 1,000-unit mark likely will be Play It Again Sports, which had a total of 493 units as of June 25, with 470 franchises in the US and the rest international.

Rystrom said he believes Once Upon A Child offers the biggest long-term growth potential for the company.

Although Dahlberg does not rate one concept as offering more growth than another, he noted that the children's merchandise chain does have good potential.

"The market is there and the used product is there," he added.

While Grow Biz's priority is to expand its retail franchises, from which it reaps royalty fees of 3 to 5 percent of sales, Dahlberg said, the company would most likely add two or three new concepts in the future.

Whatever they sell, the stores would aim their pitch at once-status-conscious baby boomers who have matured into ultra-practical consumers - not at all proud about running into each other in second-hand stores. (Reuters)

When a recession is too short for a country's good

HAS Germany's recession been too short for the country's own good?

The question might seem in poor taste to the 3.7 million people officially registered as unemployed. But it is increasingly being asked by business leaders and economists.

They fear the good times are returning too soon, before Germany has effectively tackled structural problems like high wages, high taxes and inflexible working practices which could threaten fu-

ture competitiveness and keep joblessness high.

Economic recovery could mean that whatever government holds power after an election on October 16 might be tempted to rest on its laurels rather than dispense the often painful medicine economists say is still needed.

When recession struck in late 1992, German firms responded with sweeping restructuring - a euphemism for firing staff.

"Some firms have restructured but other types of structures and

Germany has emerged from its recession, but business leaders say long-term growth would have been better served if more structural problems had been tackled first, Ashley Seager reports

attitudes have not changed enough," says Juergen Knorr, head of the British division of MAN. "To change attitudes you

really need to get hurt."

Although Germany went into recession later than other industrialized countries because of an economic boom following German unification in 1990, it is now recovering faster than anyone had predicted.

The Federation of German Industry (BDI) says that although firms have taken steps to cut costs and improve competitiveness, the early upswing is due purely to the fact that other countries are growing strongly and buying more German goods.

But in many cases, German goods remain too expensive to compete with products of equal or

superior quality made elsewhere. Mercedes-Benz chief Helmut Werner said recently the upswing may have come too soon for the luxury carmaker.

He wants to push through more restructuring but faces strong resistance from Mercedes workers, who ask why tough measures are necessary now that sales and profits are surging again.

Werner's answer is that Mercedes cars still cost 35 percent more to produce than those of their Japanese competitors.

Many economists warn that unemployment, which seems to have peaked at about 10.5%, is likely to remain stubbornly high despite

renewed economic growth.

Rigidities like sector-wide pay deals and generous welfare benefits have encouraged German firms to shift production abroad, meaning new job creation at home will be slow.

"The labor market is still in great trouble," said Peter Pietsch, senior economist at Commerzbank in Frankfurt.

"Powerful unions mean we have rather large wage increases. I am not optimistic that this will change in the next few years."

"Unemployment has risen sharply in each recession but not fallen back much afterwards and this is going to happen again. Structural unemployment will keep rising," Pietsch said.

Employers' federation leader Klaus Murrmann said recently the economy would have to grow by 1.7% just to stop unemployment rising any further.

Wages have outstripped productivity growth for years, and the gap has not nearly been restored by this year's moderate pay round, he said.

Economists say unions may accept another moderate pay round in 1995, but after that they will be looking to claw back losses in real wages forced on them in the recession.

Many had predicted that recession would destroy the country's collective wage bargaining system as cash-strapped firms broke with sector wage deals. But although the structure came under strain, it is emerging largely intact.

State finances remain another major cause for concern.

During the recession, massive transfers to former communist East Germany, a sharp fall in tax revenues and a rapid climb in payments to the unemployed inflated the federal budget deficit to re-

cord levels of around DM 70 billion (\$45.22 billion) a year.

Total public debt is now DM 2 trillion (\$1.292 trillion), equivalent to half the country's gross domestic product, and is still rising. The government spends one mark in every seven on debt servicing.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl's government has already pushed through some welfare benefit cuts in an attempt to reduce spiraling deficits.

But as growth starts to push up tax revenue and reduce debt payments, the next government may find it difficult to muster the political will to impose further reform.

Despite the widely acknowledged need for Germany to slash the maze of excessive bureaucracy and regulations that hamper economic activity, economists say Kohl's government has made little practical progress on this.

This is particularly true of the service sector, which is underdeveloped in Germany compared with other industrialized countries.

Sunday working remains almost totally prohibited and shop opening hours are tightly restricted. Even a modest government attempt to scrap a 1933 law banning shops from offering discounts failed to make it through parliament.

Challenging the wave of pre-election euphoria with which the government has greeted economic recovery, the BDI warns that Germany cannot afford to relax its efforts to become more competitive.

"The structural problems of the German economy have not been solved by the economic recovery," it said. "Therapy has been started but it will be long-term and will require stamina from both patient and therapist." (Reuters)

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I listen, ergo I exist

BRIDGE

MATTHEW GRANOVETTER

West dealer
East-West vulnerable

North
 ♠ AKJ
 ♥ A842
 ♦ A976
 ♣ 32

West
 ♠ Q107
 ♥ K83
 ♦ AK975

East
 ♠ 75432
 ♥ 1965
 ♦ J1054

South
 ♠ 10986
 ♥ K3
 ♦ 2
 ♣ 10864

West North East South
 1♣ (all pass) 1♠ 4♣

Opening lead: ♠A

SINCE the beginning of time, writes my friend

Roselyn Teukolsky, of

Ithaca, New York, in a recent

magazine article, "philosophers

have pondered, among other

questions, the nature of reality

and existence. For myself, the

existence dilemma is often settled

at the bridge table. I do not exist.

I am, in fact, invisible."

Her complaint is that when she

comes up against a pair that is

playing a complicated bidding sys-

tem, no matter what monkey

wrenches she throws into the

pot, her opponents ignore her

and go on their busy way of de-

scribing their hands to each other.

This is not usually the case.

Most of the time, when somebody

bids your suit, you don't ignore it.

You usually take careful note of it

and are more cautious than you

might have been. Sometimes the

opponent who bids your suit in

front of you is telling the truth and

it helps prevent your side from

reaching a contract that would

otherwise fail, because of the poor

trump split.

Sometimes it is difficult to

judge. Take the case, written

about in a new book by Mike Lawrence,

of Berkeley, California, called

"The Complete Book on

Takeout Doubles, of the opponent

who bids your suit after your

partner has made a takeout double.

For example, look at the diagram

deal, which took place this summer

at the American Nationals in

San Diego. West opened the

bidding one club, North doubled

and East bid one spade. What would

you do if you were in South seat?

Lawrence writes: "You can

make a mess of this area if you

don't have understandings. If the

bidding goes, for instance [like the

auction in today's diagram], do

you know the difference between

a two-club cuebid and a two-spade

cuebid? You have probably never

thought about it and I hadn't given

it much thought either until one of

my more scientific partners gave

me 20 pages on the differences. I

can give you half of a page which

will be worth more and cause fewer

memory lapses.

"If South cuebids opener's suit,

in this case two clubs, it is a cuebid

in the normal sense. South will

have a hand that would have cue-

bidded two clubs had East passed

instead of bidding one spade.

"If South cuebids responder's

suit, in this case by bidding two

spades, you can also play it as

some kind of cuebid. There is an

other treatment that I prefer. Play

it as a natural bid showing five

spades and seven to nine support

points."

Lawrence continues with his

own example and suggests that

one way to show this week's South

hand is to say that a two-spade bid

is not a cuebid, but a natural bid



Autumn is the season for harvesting olives, which are a source of essential fats without cholesterol. (Carol Gootner)

Olives for all

NATURE

D'VORA BEN SHAUL

FOLKLORE in the Middle East has it that the first sign of oil in olives coincides with the blossoming of the white squill. Before that time, it is said, if you express the juice of an olive it is watery; after that time, it's oil.

Actually, the process is a bit more gradual than that, but one thing is sure: When autumn comes around, the little green fruits will be full of oil and ready for harvest.

The principal product of the olive tree is oil, the use of which dates so far back into antiquity that its origins are a mystery. Olive oil, because of its purity, was used for anointing in rituals and for ritual lamps, but it was also well utilized as a source of light for the home, as a medicament for both internal and external application, a cosmetic, a lubricant, a soap base when mixed with water from wood ashes, and a basic food source.

For centuries, particularly in the Mediterranean area, the olive was the principal oil source for almost every purpose.

But the tree has many other uses. The fruit, pickled in brine or cooked, is delicious and nutritious. The wood is a superb fuel source as well as a choice medium

for sculptors, cabinet makers and other artisans. The tree itself gives cooling shade; animals, both domestic and wild, are nurtured by its windfall fruits and leaves, and in particular by the tender shoots that spring out around its base.

These green shoots and leaves are comparable to the finest food concentrates for cattle, sheep and goats. Wild gazelles seek them avidly, as do porcupines and some other vegetarian animals.

There are many varieties of olives in the world and many have been imported here. Food producers favor the large Italian olives, but the average Israeli relies mainly on the small Syrian olive.

Olives are a good source for essential fats without cholesterol - in fact, some researchers claim olive oil can actually reduce cholesterol in the blood.

The shoots that surround the olive tree are used by grove keepers to create root stock for new trees. Cut away from the trunk with a bit of cambium attached, the shoot quite easily develops into a sturdy tree suitable for grafting. Even the imported strains of olive are more successful when grafted onto the roots of the hardy native variety.

The computer cometh

CHESS

NIGEL DAVIES

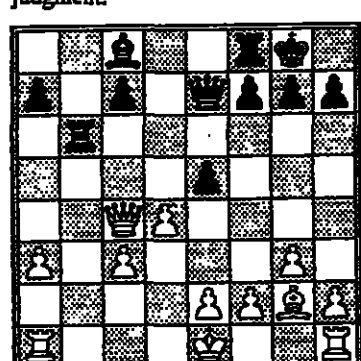
IN the London leg of the Intel Speed Chess Grand Prix, the chess computer reached a new landmark by eliminating a human world champion. In the very first round, the program, Genius 2, being run on a recently developed Pentium computer, defeated Garry Kasparov by a 1.5-0.5 scoreline.

In the first game Kasparov scowled condescendingly at the machine's anti-positional moves, but as he tried to force victory the computer defended brilliantly. Using its massive calculating power it kept finding the only move to stay in the game. And eventually Kasparov fell into trouble as he rejected a drawing line and then ran out of time.

In the second Kasparov once again outplayed the machine positionally, yet once again he was unable to notch up the point. He avoided a second humiliation only by offering a draw when his time was running out, which meant his elimination from the tournament.

The computer went on to defeat Predrag Nikolic in the second round before meeting its match in Vishwanathan Anand in the semifinals. Although Anand eventually lost the final to Vassily Ivanchuk of Ukraine, he earned the thanks of the human chess fraternity.

The Indian grandmaster, though known for his speed of calculation, could hardly match the Pentium's 166 million calculations a second. But positional sense still counts for something and at key moments in both games the computer made serious mistakes in judgment.



In this position from the first game, any strong human player would instinctively bring his king to safety by castling. But computers tend to like pawns a lot, in fact much more than any abstract positional motif. So the Pentium Genius played the unbelievable

This certainly gave it excellent losing chances after Anand forced a queen exchange with his reply 28.Qd4!.

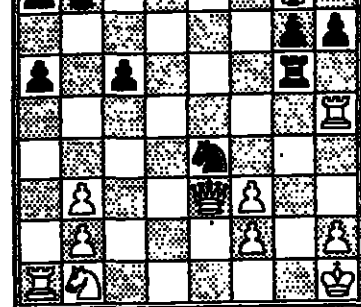
The game continued: 28...Qxd4 29.exd4 f5 30.b4 Kf6 31.e5 a6 32.a4 Ke7 33.b5 axb5 34.axb5 g5 35.Kf2.

Black might be able to hang on if he prevents White's king from getting in among his kingside pawns. But the Pentium Genius came up with the horrible move 35...h5??, which allows his kingside pawn formation to be broken up.

Anand promptly replied with 36.h4!, temporarily sacrificing a pawn, and thereafter penetrating with his king. The game concluded: 36...gxh4 37.g4 was slightly more tenacious! 37.Kf3 Ke8 38.Kf4 Kd7 39.Kg5 Kd8 40.Kah4 Kd7 41.Kxh5 1-0.

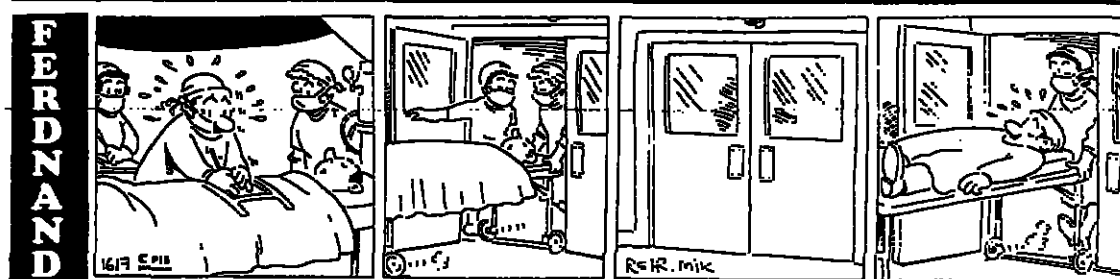
With the arrival of this ultra-fast Pentium hardware, computers are becoming very difficult to handle, especially at the faster time limits. Here's a piece of advice given to me by David Bronstein: "Sacrifice a pawn," he told me. "It throws out all their assessments!"

THIS WEEK'S problem is a neat finish from a 1979 vintage encounter, Prajnalk - Kuuskmaa. Black to play and win (see diagram).



Solution: The surprising 1...Qf4! left Black with little choice but to resign. The variations are 2.Qxf4 Nxf2 mate, 2.Nc3 Qxe3 3.fxe3 Nf2 mate, 2.Qxe4 Qc1+ or finally 2.fxe4 Qg4 3.Qg3 Qd1+ etc.

DRIVE CAREFULLY!!



Hanukkah gelt for empty coffers

FUNDS

BEVERLEE BLACK

IT'S hard to believe that Hanukkah is only eight weeks away. We still have a long way to go before sufficient funds are raised if we are to meet only a fraction of our annual commitments.

In recent years, the Toy Fund has been called upon to fill many new needs apart from the traditional toys and games at Hanukkah.

If we are to answer only half of these appeals, we must replenish our coffers. That's where you come in. Please help make this year the best ever.

The Forsake Me Not Fund is off to a good start, but more funds are needed to ensure the elderly will be kept warm during the coming winter months.

At the end of October, we are planning to award \$120,000 for scholarships to some 30 applicants selected from hundreds who have requested help. (Details regarding the award ceremony will be given at a later date.)

If our readers' response does not improve, we will be able to supply only the bare minimum. We're counting on you, our readers, to generously take up the slack and provide us with the means to assist those in need.

Don't wait. They need your help now. Send your checks to: The Jerusalem Post Funds, POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem.

Donors from the US wishing to receive tax benefit can send their donations to: Friends of the Jerusalem Post Funds, 211 E. 43rd St., Ste. 601, New York, NY 10017.

FORSAKE ME NOT

NIS 1,000 H. Simon, Herzliya Pituah.
 NIS 500 Shimon Shastovitch Ltd., Tel Aviv.
 NIS 400 Anon., J'm.
 NIS 360 Anon., Rehovot.

NIS 300 Anon., J'm. In loving memory of my parents, my husband and my sister - Jeannette, Ramat Gan.
 NIS 200 Lilian Scherzer, J'm. In remembrance of Joseph E. and Anne Feldman - Susan and Allen Reiter, Haifa, Anon., J'm.
 NIS 180 Anon., J'm.
 NIS 155 Anon., J'm.
 NIS 150 Rabbi Joseph and Judy Goldman, J'm.

NIS 144 Janine Stauber, Tel Aviv.
 NIS 100 In honor of Bobba Liza's 81st birthday - Louis Pennet, Rosh HaNir, Bar Chana.
 NIS 100 In memory of my dear husband, Dr. Benjamin Cohn, Herzliya Pituah, Anon., Haifa.
 NIS 100 In honor of the Fogel-Shemesh Families - Harry Fogelberg, Ra'anana, Haifa, and Shimon Mendel, Ramat Gan, Haifa.
 NIS 75 In loving memory of our dear husband and father, Harry Mankin - Lucie, Haifa and Chava.
 NIS 72 Rachel and Chaim Alexander, J'm.
 NIS 60 Magdalena Engelberg, J'm. Anon., Haifa.

NIS 54 To thank Ann Witzum, Beersheva for her frequent kind helpfulness to me - Rose Klein, Beersheva.
 NIS 50 Robin and Rami Gurnani, Herzliya.
 NIS 40 In loving memory of my parents, Frank and Regina Koonbluh - Edith Ordan, Bnei Brak, NY. In loving memory of my husband, Manny and our parents, Lea and Max Samet and Perla and Azriel Okrent - Selma Okrent, Tel Aviv. To honor the memory of my beloved parents, Sydney and Marcelle Bader - M.E. Wessely, Ra'anana, Haifa and Yashov Stockman, J'm. Juliette and Zvi Israel, J'm.
 NIS 40 In loving memory of my parents, Mr. and Mrs. B. Ruben, My sister, Mrs. J. Gould and my brother, S.A. Ruben - Ella Berkovits, Haifa.
 NIS 39 Fran Alpert, J'm.
 NIS 36 David Fisher, Herzliya Pituah, Mina Fisher, Herzliya. In memory of Lou Magalnick, Wilkes-Barre, Canada - R.M., J'm. Sally Stone, Ma'aleh Adumim, Anon., Haifa. Raphael and Yehudit Levy, Kfar Habad. In memory of my father, Eugene C. Myers, Glen Shamir, Tel Aviv.
 NIS 30 Morris Cukernik, Netanya.
 NIS 20 In memory of Rabbi Israel Egon Lowenstein - Ruth and Max Friedlander, J'm. Rivka and David Epstein, J'm.
 NIS 18 In memory of Harriet (Fanny) Dorfman, J'm. - "Eliot Hay" - R.M., J'm. In honor of Joy and Harvey's 60th birthdays.
 NIS 10 Anon.
 NIS 10 In memory of my wife Susan - Wolfgang Neuman, Chicago; sons, Daniel and Uriel and families; friends Shigeo and Florence Kato.
 NIS 10 In honor of our wedding, July 31, 1994, in Los Angeles - Irene (Key) and David Bobrowsky. In memory of Moses and Sarah Lassman, Jacob and Malvina Malka Lassman and David and Roy Lassman - Miriam Lassman, Tel Aviv. In memory of Dr. Bernardo Porzencanski on his fourth yahrzeit - his wife. In memory of our beloved father and grandfather, Abraham Kohn - Andrew Geller, Tzaneck, NJ.
 NIS 10 In memory of our parents, Rabbi Simcha and Minnie Drizin Levy and Sylvan and Yetta Barish - Dr. and Mrs. Leon Levy, Morristown, NJ.
 NIS 10 In memory of parents, Cantor and Mrs. David Glinkovsky and Mr. and Mrs. Morris Kramer - Bernard and Beatrice Kramer, Wallingford, CT.
 NIS 10 Katz, Grand Rapids, MI.
 NIS 10 Skolnik, IL.
 NIS 10 Anon., J'm. David Kalman, Boston.
 NIS 10 Anon., Pittsburgh, PA.
 NIS 10 In loving memory of my parents, Ida and Morris Skolnik - P. Skolnik, Tel Aviv.
 NIS 10 In remembrance of Rabbi John J. Zucker - Sylvia Warner, Camp, CA.
 NIS 10 E.W. and Helen Woodman, Newport, AR. Sarah Solitway, Kibbutz Ramat Yohanan. In memory of Joseph and Ida Penner - Louis Penner, Rosh HaNir, Bar Chana.
 NIS 10 In memory of my friend, Yaffa Lofsky, who left us much too early in our and her life-time - Leah. In memory of my brother, Dr. Menachem Matzner - Dr. Markus Matzner, Edison, NJ. Lisa Kacil, Wintnagh, NY. In memory of Dan Ferguson, father, grandfather, great-grandfather of Bethesda, MD, and Waverly, NY - Joseph Bornstein, Burlington, VT.
 NIS 10 Miriam Estan Lazar and Ruth Lazar.

New York, NY. Anon., Hartford, CT. For good friendship and good health to Tom Hall - Harry and Louise Abelson, Brunswick, ME. Boris Schein, Fayetteville, AR. Anon., Rockville, MD.
 NIS 10 Virginia Randall, Scottsdale, AZ.
 NIS 10 In memory of Joyce Frayman - Ariene Frayman, West Palm Beach, FL.
 NIS 10 R. Asper, Winnipeg, Canada.

Progress
 Totals
 NIS 30,950.85
 \$1,450
 \$9,813.07
 Can\$2,300
 \$183
 Fr. Fr. 200

TOY FUND

NIS 1,000 H. Simon, Herzliya Pituah.
 NIS 400 Anon., J'm.
 NIS 300 Lilian Scherzer, J'm.
 NIS 200 Lilian Scherzer, J'm.
 NIS 100 In memory of my brother, Dr. Menachem Matzner - Dr. Markus Matzner, Edison, NJ. Lisa Kacil, Wintnagh, NY.
 NIS 100 In memory of my beloved daughter, Laura Ordan Buchbinder - Edith Ordan, Bronx, NY. Juliette and Zvi Israel, J'm.
 NIS 100 Anon., Haifa. Wishing a happy New Year to all the Jews in Israel.
 NIS 30 Morris Cukernik, Netanya.
 NIS 18 In honor of Joy and Harvey's 60th birthdays.
 NIS 10 Anon., Brooklyn, NY.
 NIS 10 In memory of my father, Abraham Slopek (20th yahrzeit) - Dr. Charlotte Slopek, J'm. In loving memory of my parents, Ida and Morris Skolnik - P. Skolnik, Tel Aviv.
 NIS 10 In memory of my brother, Dr. Menachem Matzner - Dr. Markus Matzner, Edison, NJ.
 NIS 10 Boris Schein, Fayetteville, AR.
 NIS 10 In memory of Joyce Frayman - Ariene Frayman, West Palm Beach, FL.
 NIS 10 In honor of our grandchildren, Rachel Nomi, Mordechai Zvi and Shlomo Zev Schwartz of Eilat and Joshua Zak and Eytan Meshulam Posner of Tzaneck, NJ - Doris and Moshe Tannenbaum, Montreal, Canada.
 NIS 10 R. Asper, Winnipeg, Canada.

Progress
 Totals
 NIS 12,180
 NIS 13,491
 \$4,755
 Can\$160
 \$125
 Fr. Fr. 200
 Sw. Fr. 10

Progress
 Totals
 NIS 2,180
 NIS 13,491
 \$4,755
 Can\$160
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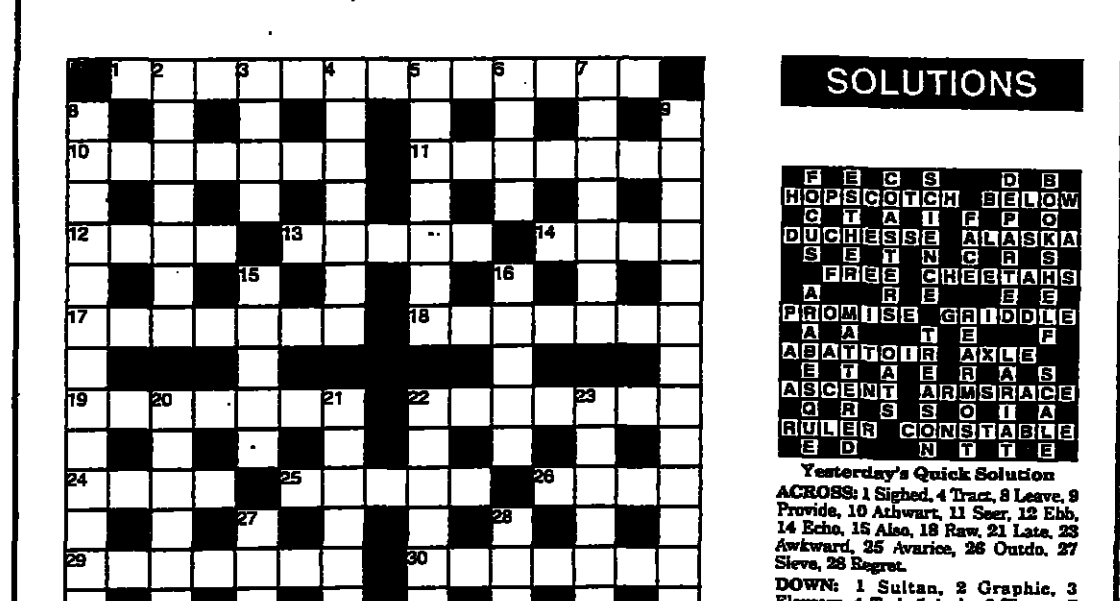
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CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS
 1 News of the regatta (7,6)
 10 Mail to be dispatched from a remote station (7)
 11 Anglicans admit inclinations to be free from guilt (7)
 12 Monstrous creature is repelled as a result (4)
 13 An attempt to cause embarrassment (5)
 14 Put pressure on a childless operator (4)
 17 Given liberty to put the king in charge (3,4)
 18 Upsetting cover on Austen novel proves a problem (7)
 19 Right poorly and full of complaint (7)
 22 Citizen of the borough who spied for the USSR (7)
 24 Father's pawns (4)

DOWN
 25 Started puffing when inebriated (3,2)
 26 Blonde is beautiful (4)
 29 Squabble resulting from radioactive pollution (4,3)
 30 Lettuce and sherry for a Czarist cavalier (7)
 31 Saint Stephen's punishment for becoming drunk (7,6)

2 Tense on having risen with a hangover (7)
 3 Cross and utterly unconvincing (4)
 4 The board's absence is significant (7)
 5 Wrapped up the trial in conclusion (7)
 6 Constantly dream of France in retirement (4)
 7 So much Gallic spirit results in an outburst (7)



SOLUTIONS

Yesterday's Quick Solution
 ACROSS: 1 Sighed, 4 Truce, 9 Provide, 10 Abhorred, 12 Scour, 12 Ebb, 14 Echo, 15 Also, 18 Ram, 21 Laze, 22 Awkward, 25 Avarice, 26 Outdo, 27 Sieve, 28 Eager.
 DOWN: 1 Sultan, 2 Graphic, 3 Elevator, 4 Tool, 5 Agile, 6 Theory, 7 Spite, 13 Backbone, 18 Scatter, 17 Always, 19 Waver, 20 Adroit, 22 Trade, 24 Pile.

ACROSS
 7 Northern Frenchman (6)
 8 More revolting (6)
 10 Italian dumplings (7)
 11 Middle-Eastern bread (5)
 12 Light fawn (4)
 13 Forces trainee (5)
 17 Inflexible (5)
 18 Exchange (4)
 22 Marine load (5)
 23 Higher regions (7)
 24 Bay (6)
 25 Howled (6)

DOWN
 1 Half-suppressed laugh (7)
 2 Arsenal (7)
 3 Forcement (6)
 4 Two-line verse (7)
 5 Polish monetary unit (5)
 6 Old silver coin (5)
 8 Exceedingly funny (9)
 14 Understatement (7)
 15 Cheat (7)
 16 Incident (7)
 19 Castigate (5)
 20 Haughty (6)
 2

Some critics say the chain's decline began when it gave up its aim of preserving ethnic crafts, Greer Fay Cashman reports

RUMORS of the impending closure of Maskit had been circulating for some time. The chain of arts, crafts and fashion stores, which Ruth Dayan had founded as a government enterprise in 1949, had long ago sacrificed its philosophy of preserving ethnic crafts on the altar of commercial aspirations.

So when the axe finally fell at the beginning of this week, few of the people who had been involved with Maskit from the beginning seemed surprised.

"It's unfortunate that it happened, and I'm sorry, but I'm not hurt," Dayan said this week.

Unlike others who spoke in bitter tones of mismanagement and insensitivity to the "Maskit ideology," Dayan attributed Maskit's demise to changing needs.

When Maskit was first opened, it was to help new immigrants earn a living from the crafts they had brought from their native lands. The unique style and quality of the items they produced attracted buyers from around the world.

But the children of those immigrants, Dayan observed, did not become craftsmen like their parents: they went to university and entered the worlds of business and academe. Without the continuation of these traditions, she said, Maskit evolved into "just another shop owned by private people."

Fashion designer Riki Ben Ari, one of many with long-standing affiliation with Maskit, was much harsher, particularly in her condemnation of the current propri-

etor, Shimon Horn. She accused him of taking so many financially motivated shortcuts that he had completely eroded the Maskit image and abandoned its niche.

In 1970, Maskit was taken over by the Israel Investors Corporation, locally represented by Horn, who later bought the bulk of the shares. Horn gradually closed down Maskit's workshops, reduced the variety of stock and ordered machine production of many items which had previously been made by hand, thereby violating Maskit's raison d'être.

When Dayan started Maskit, Ben Ari said, "it was authentic and bohemian. It had a wonderful spirit. It had style with ethnic overtones, but not too much folklore. The target was to be creative, and in that respect every thread, every shade of color, every millimeter of cloth was important."

Ben Ari said it pained her to think of what had happened to the original Maskit, whose guiding principles had been forged not only by Dayan, but by Finy Leitersdorf, the doyenne of Israel's fashion industry, and Betty Shiloah, who, with her Foreign Ministry connections, helped put Maskit on the world map.

"It's the closing of a page of history," declared Meira Gera, who from 1959 to 1965 was employed at Maskit in a variety of capacities. "Maskit was a name both in Israel and abroad." Gera noted the shops had attracted international celebrities, such as Ed-



When Ruth Dayan started Maskit, the items — made by new immigrants — had ethnic overtones, but not too much folklore, and their quality attracted buyers from all over the world. (David Harris)

die Fisher, who purchased a caftan and a pair of striped Yemenite pajamas with bells on them for Elizabeth Taylor.

To Gera, Maskit was "a national treasure" of inestimable value, which declined because of changes in philosophy and concept.

Gera would now like to see Maskit replaced by a crafts museum, similar to the Contemporary Crafts Museum in New York. Such a museum would not only exhibit the handwork of local artisans, but could sell items through an affiliated shop.

Dayan is not averse to the idea, nor is fashion designer Jerry Melitz, who over the years worked on many Maskit projects. Melitz would be very happy if someone started another Maskit, based on the Dayan formula, but with sufficient financial backing to protect it

from bowing to commercial considerations.

DAYAN, ACCORDING TO Melitz, was "avant-garde," and ahead of her time in her devotion to high standards in the production of fashion, carpets, jewelry

and ritual objects. Other countries were sufficiently impressed, he pointed out, to consult with her on how to set up similar ventures.

"All the magnificent, progressive and positive things that Ruth Dayan did for Maskit fell by the wayside when Maskit was transferred to private ownership," Melitz said. "They didn't succeed commercially because they were bad managers," he continued, "but we must remember the quality of the early days."

Matters came to a head last month, when Horn found himself unable to pay salaries. The phones at Maskit's six stores remained unanswered this week, and at Horn's house a recording announces that the phone has been disconnected. Rumor has it that he has fled the country.

Maskit's demise does not mean that native crafts have no outlet. The WIZO shops, established over 50 years ago before Maskit was opened, continue to flourish.

"It's because we're an organization and not a private enterprise," said Ruth Benozar, who is chairwoman of the four WIZO shops in Tel Aviv, Haifa and Eilat. "Private operators can speculate and take risks," she said. "We can't. We have a responsibility to our donors and to the people who have placed their trust in us."

Like Maskit, WIZO went into business promoting the crafts of new immigrants, and there are still many newcomers among the stores' 100-plus suppliers. "But over the years, we've become more professional," said Benozar. "We keep our fingers on the pulse of what is happening, and we close stores when necessary."

One store was closed in Tel Aviv a few years ago and another recently in Jerusalem. But there are two stores in Eilat and a third will open shortly. "It's a great shame that Maskit closed," said Benozar, "but we're going on."

The place where the alligator lies down with the crocodile

TRAVEL

GARY LEE

IT was that ominous hour when the darkness of twilight fades into a soft shade of blue and Miami's swingers swagger out of late-night discos in frantic search of after-hours clubs that I set off on a prowling of my own. I was looking for crocodiles. Florida is famous for them.

Just two hours south of Miami, where urban bustle gives way to the vast patchwork of plant and wildlife known as the Everglades, 300 or so of the narrow-snouted, olive green creatures are said to hover in the swamps. It is nearly the entire population of them to be found in North America.

Recommended to me as one of the top destinations in the United States for ecology-minded tourists, South Florida had easily met its reputation up to that point in my trip. In the course of a week, I had cruised the coastal waters in search of creatures, such as the manatee, the nearly extinct sea mammal that looks like a cross between a baby elephant and a walrus. I watched for great blue herons and other birds and hiked along trails in Biscayne Park, on one edge of Miami.

Above all, I discovered the glades, as locals call them.

Dangling like a finger toward the tropics, the stretch of land from Miami to Flamingo, at the southern tip of Everglades National Park, is like a horn of plenty

of exotic plants, sea animals and mammals.

Where else can you see, all in the course of an afternoon, alligators sunning themselves in ditches by the road, panthers roaming wild in the back woods and otters slouching across the road like children at a school crossing?

The Everglades are sometimes called a river of grass, and with good reason. Out of a low-lying marsh, clusters of grass rise up, forming a prairie that seems to go on forever. The area's semi-tropical climate breeds a delightful range of other kinds of plantlife: the gumbo limbo tree, with its bronze bark and gnarly branches; nocturnal epiphyllum, a white orchid that blooms in the night; spider lilies that grow wild around the wet prairies and ponds.

Before my crocodile search mission, I had already witnessed a good share of the wonders ecotourists live to tell their grandchildren about. Early one morning I woke to see three bald eagles elegantly circling the gulf waters outside my window. A few days later, on the edge of a marsh, I saw a roseate spoonbill, one of the rarest of local birds, recognizable by its rounded beak and the splash of shocking pink feathers along its side.

Still, I wanted a glimpse of a crocodile. Before arriving in Florida, I imagined dozens of them ly-



There, at long last, lying dead still except for what looked like a faint smile in his lazy eyes, was a crocodile.

ing around like the alligators do, as if posing for photos.

Florida advertises itself as the only place in the world where both crocodiles and alligators breed in one place. I had seen my share of alligators; now I wanted a view of a croc. After several days, however, they continued to elude me.

Fortunately, other aspects of South Florida's natural bounty easily kept me occupied. For such a vast and varied area, Everglades National Park is surprisingly well manicured.

Over the years, several aspects of the area have been tailored to

suit the tastes of ecologically minded tourists. Along the main roads in the Everglades, for example, the National Park Service has set up nature stations at regular intervals. Each accents a different aspect of the natural habitat of the glades.

The idea is for visitors to drive from one station to the next, stopping according to their interests.

The Gumbo Limbo Trail, near the entrance, is a tropical ham-

mock where much of the exotic plant life of the area is on display: strangler figs, wild coffee, palms and of course the towering trees

after which the trail was named. Nearby is the Anhinga Trail. There anhinga birds swoop freely in a pond for fish, and hang themselves to dry on nearby plants. Alligators look so friendly and at home here that I dared reach my hand toward one, if only for 10 seconds, before my common sense returned. Further along, there are stops that offer a close-up look at groves of mahogany, pine and mangrove trees.

Like a treasure at the end-of-a hunt is Eco Pond. Located in Flamingo, the shallow man-made body of water is unimpressive at

first sight. On closer inspection, however, it becomes clear that the pond draws nearly all of the species of exotic birdlife found in the park. I made a visit at dusk and watched ibis, egrets, little blue herons and limpkin flock in to rest in nearby trees for the night.

There is, of course, much more to the Everglades. The guides were very useful, particularly for directing me toward the best places to watch birds and other wildlife. Parts of the park are set up for visitors who want more than a drive-by visit. In Flamingo, overnight guests can choose between a rustic lodge overlooking the bay, cabins and camping.

The Park Service staff offers a wide range of daily activities, from afternoon nature walks to open-air evening lectures.

Local environmentalists are leery of the use of motor boats and planes in the glades. Nevertheless, vendors offer a whole range of services, including boat trips into the coastal waters or the back streams, guided canoe trips and plane rides that give a dramatic aerial view of the glades. But more independent travelers can tailor their visits to their own needs. After a little planning, I set off with a couple of friends; a map and a few guidebooks.

The advantage of this approach is that it leaves room for spontaneity. On the way back from the Everglades, we stopped at the Redland Fruit and Spice Park in Homestead — a 20-acre farm where among the crops are abiu fruit from the Amazon River Basin, Chinese lychee and some 500 other exotic fruits, nuts and herbs from all over the world.

Still, I wanted to see crocodiles.

"Get up at dusk," a local in Flamingo recommended, and "head down past the docks. Usually there's a couple of crocs down by the swamps there in the early morning." And so, in the early morning light, I crawled out of bed and scurried to the place where the boats were docked; their sails flapping in the cool wind. After a brief wait, I thought I saw something moving in the water and rushed over, camera in hand. It was a used tire, tied to a tree in the swamp. Then, just when my patience started wearing thin, I spied a dark figure at the edge of the nearby woods. It turned out to be a woodchuck. With the rising sun in the face, I staggered back to the lodge.

It was our last day in the glades, and we decided to end the stay with a boat trip through the backwaters.

The air was nippy, so we huddled in one corner of the boat, sipping tea and watching the laughing gulls overhead and the airplanes along the shore. A few minutes into the trip, our guide pointed to something in the swamps, prompting us to rush to that side of the boat.

There, lying dead still except for what looked to me like a faint smile in his lazy eyes, was a crocodile. (The Washington Post)

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